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REMARKS

ON THE COUNTRY EXTENDING FROM

CAPE PALMAS

TO

THE RIVER CONGO.

00083699

G. Woodfall, Printer,
Angel Court, Skinner Street, London.

Sketch
of the
COAST OF GUINEA.
from
CAPE PALMAS,
to
CALABAR.
HOUSA
CHAMBA
TAPA
MAHEE
DAHOMY
RIO
BENIN
ASHANTEE
GOLD COAST
IVORY COAST
FANTEE
HERBO
PALM OIL
QUA
COAST
Cape Palmas
Cape Three Points
Cape St Paula
Cape Formosa
EQUATOR
Prince's I.
St Thomas
Fernando Po

REMARKS

ON THE COUNTRY EXTENDING FROM

CAPE PALMAS

TO

THE RIVER CONGO,

INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS ON THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INHABITANTS.

WITH

AN APPENDIX

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE WITH THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

BY CAPTAIN JOHN ADAMS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR G. AND W. B. WHITTAKER, AVE-MARIA LANE.

1823.

INTRODUCTION.

I AM not aware that the western shores of Africa have yet been visited by any travellers for the avowed purpose of making discoveries, at least in those parts situated between Cape Palmas and the River Congo; and the few works published relative to these countries, have been written by men (whatever their education or powers of discrimination may have been) who had duties of a higher personal interest to perform, and which left them but little time to make scientific researches. In

this part of Africa, therefore, as well as in the interior, there is a wide field for the enlightened traveller to explore; and should these sketches be found serviceable to him, in the pursuit of objects valuable to science, part of the author's intention of laying them before the public, will be answered.

In the selection of a place for colonization in Africa, the members composing the African Institution, it is too well known, have been peculiarly unfortunate. The insalubrity of the air of Sierra Leone is almost become proverbial, and those going there are considered by many as embarking for the next world; it is therefore much to be apprehended, that one of the benevolent purposes for which that settlement was originally founded, will

be frustrated. Hence, in the course of these remarks I have endeavoured to point out a place suitable for establishing a colony of the negroes captured on board of contraband slave ships. In fact, there is not along the whole line of coast, extending from Cape Palmas, where these remarks commence, to the River Congo, embracing an extent of five hundred leagues, one place that has come under my observation, so peculiarly well adapted for that purpose, as the one to which I allude, and for the reasons adduced in the course of this work.

The trade in the productions of the soil of Africa, having of late greatly increased, more especially in consequence of the final abolition of the

slave trade on the western shores of Africa, north of the equator, I have given, in the appendix, a statement of such articles, both of Indian and European manufacture, as are suitable to barter for gold, ivory, and palm-oil; as also the current prices, for which they are generally bought in Europe, and bartered in Africa.

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ERRATA.

Page 69 line 4 *for* roofs *read* roof.
75 .... 20 *for* unnecessary *read* necessary.
83 .... 11 *for* Eyeo *read* Hio.
84 .... 18 *for* Eyeo *read* Hio.
107 .... 23 *for* thirty *read* thirteen.
191 .... 15 *for* topmast *read* topmasts.

REMARKS,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Cape Palmas—Coley's Rock, and opinion respecting it—Bereby—Drewin—St. Andrew's—Cape Lahoo, town and river—Bassams, great and little—Assinee—Appolonia—British forts on the Gold Coast—Fantees, their customs—Chambas, or Duncos, their character.

Cape Palmas lies in latitude 4° 30′ north and longitude 7° 30′ west of Greenwich. Off the cape there is a reef, in the inside of which, and near the shore, small vessels may anchor. To the westward of Cape Palmas, a rock was discovered by Captain Coley, of the ship Queen, of London, in the year 1794, and the account which he gave of it and its bearings, is as follows: "Two high trees above Garraway, bearing north five leagues,

pitch of Cape Palmas, E. N. E. six and a half leagues. On the top of the rock I found ten feet water, and it tapers down to seven fathoms, as close as you can chuck a biscuit. The depth of water, after clearing the rock is thirteen fathoms.*"

The natives of the Cape are poor and in-

* The distance which captain Coley has estimated this rock to be from the land, must certainly be erroneous, because neither Garraway, nor Cape Palmas, would be visible from the quarter-deck of his vessel, at the distances which he has given; and it is to be presumed, that he took the bearings of the land from his boat, when sounding on the rock. From Garraway to Cape Palmas, including both these places, the land is so very low, that, in approaching it from the sea, the trees growing on it, are first visible above the horizon, and have the appearance of a fleet of ships. Therefore, if he took the bearings and distance of the rock from the boat, a line drawn from his eye, and terminating at the distance of five leagues, would require an object to be 160 feet high to be seen at that point; and at the distance of six and a half leagues, an object 180 feet high would be requisite for the same purpose, supposing the atmosphere to be unusally clear, which is by no means common on this

offensive, and live principally by fishing. They sometimes bring off to vessels a small quantity of ivory, and Malagetta pepper.

BEREBY is situated on the margin of a bay, in which boats can generally land, as there is a projecting point of land which breaks off the sea. The natives sell a little ivory.

ST. ANDREW'S and DREWIN. The people here have a small quantity of ivory, for which they always wish an exorbitant price.

The town of Cape LAHOO is built on a narrow peninsula of sand formed by the sea and river, and may consist of 150 houses, containing a population of seven or eight hundred souls. The Dutch, at a former period, carried on here a considerable trade in slaves and ivory, particularly in the latter, in which article the Lahoo people have always dealt largely.

As the trade with Europeans is carried

part of the coast of Africa; and the highest trees here have not an apparent altitude exceeding fifty or sixty feet.

on on board their vessels, but few of them ever go on shore, and I was in consequence anxious to pay the town a visit. On making my intention known to the natives, they seemed much gratified, and placed me in one of their best canoes for that purpose; from which we landed, without being much wet, the surf on the shore being moderate. I was taken to the chief's house, who treated me with much attention, kindness, and hospitality: but the beautiful tropical picture which the river at this time presented, would have amply repaid me for my trouble, if I had had no other cause for being pleased with my journey. This little river, after bending its course from the north to the back of the town, runs to the eastward a few hundred yards, parallel to the sea-shore, and then joins the sea. Its mouth is narrow, and choked with hard sand, on which the sea breaks with great violence, so as to render it very dangerous, either for boats or canoes to approach its entrance.

It was now the dry season, its stream almost pellucid, and its surface so tranquil, that the graceful palms which adorn its banks were reflected from its surface as from a mirror; and a few canoes, in which people were employed fishing, gave animation to the scene. The town formed the foreground, and a cluster of large ceiba and other trees, the screen to this interesting tropical picture. A boundless expanse of ocean placed within a few hundred yards of it, on which I had toiled many years, and a foaming surf rolling in upon the shore, formed a striking contrast to the tranquillity and beauty of the landscape spread out before me, which gave it charms that, in my eyes, it might not otherwise have had.

Men, women, and children, accompanied me when I went to view the entrance of the river, and I was much surprised to see many of the females approaching the adult age, in a state of nudity, as compared with those of their own sex and age living

on the Gold Coast, and without seeming at all conscious of the indecency of their appearance.

The form of government is patriarchal, although a man named Antonia appeared to exercise the greatest authority; he was at this time labouring under a diseased stomach, in consequence of having taken a dose of the tincture of cantharides, administered to him by the surgeon of a vessel, to whom he had complained of impotence.

After spending a few hours on shore, I embarked in a canoe, was upset in the surf, and swam through it to the boat, lying a few yards outside the breakers; an old man, apparently seventy years of years, swam alongside of me, to secure me from the danger of being drowned; and as soon as he had seen me safe in the boat, immediately returned to the shore. These people, like those of the windward coast, are almost amphibious.

The places of trade lying between Cape

Lahoo and Appolonia, are Jack Lahoo, Great and Little Bassam, and Assinee; at the latter three places much gold and ivory is obtained, the former of a very superior quality. The trade in gold is also considerable at Appolonia, where the most western British fort is situated. Small cattle are sometimes to be purchased very cheap at Jack Lahoo, and also, at Jack-a-Jack, besides yams and palm oil. The latter place is a few miles to the eastward of the former.

The British forts on the Gold Coast are Dixcove, a few miles to leeward of Cape three Points, and near a small break in the land, which may be called a cove, and from which no doubt the name in part originated. It is capable of sheltering a few boats of fifteen or twenty tons burthen, and is valuable as being the only place on the Gold Coast where craft can be repaired. Much gold of a fine quality, is also obtained here.

SUCCUNDEE and COMENDA are insignificant places, and of no value for either military or commercial purposes.

CAPE COAST CASTLE is the residence of the commander-in-chief, and is in lat. 5° 6′ north, and 1° 3′ west of Greenwich.

ANNAMABOO, TANTUM, WINNEBAH, and ACCRA, constitute the remainder of the British settlements, or forts on the Gold Coast.

ANNAMABOO is ten miles to the eastward of Cape Coast, and is the great mart on the Gold Coast where the trade in slaves has been carried on for a long period. Here is a fortification, the defences of which are good, and which is entrusted to the care of an officer next in rank to the commander-in-chief, and who is also vice-president of the council.

The fort, which is quadrangular, is built on the extreme margin of the shore, the sea washing the foot of the southern boundary wall, and the town of Annamaboo, taking

the form of a crescent, embraces it; the horns of which come close to the sea, one to the east, and the other to the west, of the fort; a ledge of rocks lying immediately in front of it, and a few yards from the shore, forms a good break-water, which enables the natives to launch their canoes, and also to land merchandise from them with tolerable safety, except when the sea runs very high.

The population of the town may amount to three or four thousand persons, many of whom have become opulent in consequence of their extensive commercial dealings; and among them are a number of men denominated gold-takers, who claim a kind of hereditary right to act in such capacities on board all vessels that arrive for the purposes of trade. This right is founded on the long established custom, of the traders who first visit a vessel becoming the gold-takers for that vessel, whether the number be two, three, or six; except in the case of the

captain having before traded at Annamaboo, either as cabin-boy or captain, when the gold-takers of the ship in which he before sailed become the privileged persons, and claim the distinction and emoluments as gold-takers, on the present, as well as on all future, voyages he may have occasion to make on the Gold Coast. The duties of their office are to settle all disputes arising in the course of trade between the natives and the captains; and they are also responsible for the quality of the gold received in barter, which is weighed and examined minutely by persons deputed by them, and who constantly reside on board the vessels for that express purpose. The emoluments arising to them for these services, consist of a quantity of merchandise, of the value of 5l., denominated their sea-cloth's, which is given to them immediately on the vessel's arrival; and when her lading is completed, they are paid one acky of gold for each slave received on board. Their deputies

also receive monthly pay and subsistence whilst officiating. Some of these gold-takers are sagacious fellows, and keen observers, who soon find out the weak side of a man, and treat him accordingly. They have always a bye name for each European, arising from what they conceive to be a moral vice, or a physical deformity. One man they call *cheegwa*, or red head; another, *pockum-pockum*, or long chin; a third, *amphiteshu*, or, don't spit upon deck; a fourth, *cocroco*, or big; and a tall thin man, *tsin tsin lan*, or long fellow; a hypocrite, *dada*; an avaricious man, *acacumma*, or, a little more.

One day, a vain, consequential captain was giving himself airs, and abusing one of his gold-takers, a sly old fellow, who happened to know by report something of his family connexions in England, one of whom was a plumber. The old man, after looking at him with the most ineffable contempt, said to him, with great emphasis—"Who

you? You father no make lead bar.* You be big man? You no big! You family nobody!" Then, snapping his fingers in his face, coolly marched over the ship's side into his canoe. Some of the officers and ship's company were present, and very much enjoyed the mortification which their ostentatious commander suffered on this occasion, and who was rendered mute by the unexpected and energetic retort of the old man. But the Africans often say in a few words that which is very expressive. A female slave, who attended a family coming from Jamaica to England in a ship where I was, was asked, one morning, why her master (a very big man) was so much alarmed the preceding night; for he had run upon deck in his shirt, screaming violently, "we shall all be lost! we shall all be lost!" merely because there was more bustle upon deck than usual, in consequence

* Lead bars, as articles of trade, are held in the lowest estimation by the traders of Annamaboo.

of taking in sail in a squall which had come suddenly on. Her reply was, "Massa big for noten;" meaning to say, her master was big for nothing, or, in other words, that Nature had made him large beyond the ordinary stature of man, without endowing him with courage, or self-command.

Mr. Brian Edwards relates, in his History of the West Indies, an anecdote of a boy, who had made a fatiguing journey in order to convey a letter to him, that required an immediate answer. The boy arrived in the middle of the night; and whilst Mr. Edwards was engaged writing a reply, he gathered himself into one corner of the room, and fell into a sound sleep. When Mr. Edwards had completed his letter, he called to the boy two or three times, who not answering, his own servant, who was near, came into the room, and shaking violently the fatigued and sleeping Quamina, asked him sharply, "You no hear Massa call you?" when the yawning boy answered,

peevishly, "Sleep no hab massa," or, sleep has no master. What could possibly be more expressive than the spontaneous answer of this tired and sleepy child of nature! and how few sailors are there, but who have felt the full force of the expression, and which is ably described by our immortal bard, Shakspeare:—

Canst thou upon the high and giddy mast,
Seal up the ship-boy's eyes, and rock his brains
In cradle of the rude, imperious surge?
And, in the visitation of the winds,
Who take the ruffian billows by the top,
Curling their monstrous heads, and hanging them
With deafening clamours in the slippery shrouds,
That with the hurly, death itself awakes;
Canst thou, O partial sleep! give thy repose
To the wet sea-boy in an hour so rude?
And, in the calmest and the stillest night,
With all appliances, and means to boot,
Deny it to a king?—

The form of the FANTEE government is republican. A number of old men called Pinins, at the head of whom is Amooni-

cummy, are arbiters in common disputes which occur between the natives of Annamaboo, or between them and Europeans; but disputes of a more serious nature, such as may affect the liberties, or properties of men of wealth and consequence, are generally referred to the lawyers of the Brafoo country, who, like their brethren of the long robe in civilized Europe, generally contrive to strip both plaintiff and defendant of their property; and he, whose purse holds out the longest, saves perhaps his liberty, while his less wealthy antagonist and family are often doomed to slavery and exile. To be rich, and ostentatious in the display of it, is, in Fantee, as certain ruin to the individual practising it, as in the territory of the Grand Seignor: cunning men, therefore, as they become wealthy, affect great moderation and humility; strengthen themselves by family alliances, and use every stratagem to keep out of palavers, and elude the vigilance of the Pinins,

who are generally on the alert, and watch for prey, as the petty-fogging attornies of commercial towns in Europe do for batteries and assaults. The advantage which a man, possessing sagacity and prudence along with riches, has over one who combines with wealth a vain and ostentatious parade of it, is strongly exemplified in the two following characters. Yellow Joe and Tom Coffee are both natives of Fantee, resident traders at Annamaboo, and long-established gold-takers. The former, both in colour, person, and features, is more like an Egyptian than a native of the Gold Coast; except, that his hair is crisp and woolly, like that of his countrymen. He has a most penetrating eye, and much gravity in his demeanor, particularly when he is in the society of Europeans, with whom he is reserved and cautious, seldom smiling, or saying much; although, when he does speak, it is always to the purpose. If a dispute arises between a captain and a

native of consequence, he invariably supports the cause of the latter, knowing well, that it is from that quarter only he has to apprehend injury: he is cautious, therefore, never to make an enemy who might, out of revenge, involve him in a quarrel, which would bring inevitable ruin on himself and family; for being reputed rich, the blowing awry of a feather would almost be a sufficient pretext to excite the cupidity of the lawyers belonging to the Fantee Court of Chancery. He treats with condescension, and much apparent humility, persons of all ranks who visit him, either out of courtesy, or for advice; and whatever his house affords, his guests are treated with. His dress is simple, and of little value; and he never wears about his person much gold, as is the practice with wealthy natives of the Gold Coast. His chief residence is at Annamaboo, where he carries on his commercial pursuits, and pays and receives visits of ceremony. At Annishan, one mile to the

westward of Annamaboo, and which is called his croom, or village, he has a residence, and where, it is said, he indulges himself in the contemplation of his wealth, unobserved, and occasionally distributes to his sons some portion of it; for Tacky Mensa, who is his nephew and heir-at-law, would deprive them, at their father's death, of that, which, in England, would be their lawful inheritance.

Tom Coffee, both in colour and features, is a complete African. To a portly person is added much amenity of countenance; and in his disposition there is something of a hearty generosity: but Tom, unfortunately, was known to be rich, for he took no pains to conceal it, but rather courted observation, by a vain and ostentatious display of his wealth. He acquired his property chiefly by trading with Europeans, and was a great favourite both with them and the native traders of remote countries, whose cause he generally espoused in any

disputes that occurred between them and his townsmen; for it was through their instrumentality he had become rich, and this was the way in which he showed his gratitude. His house was more splendidly furnished than those of any of his neighbours, having many articles of European luxury in it; and the number of his domestic slaves and retainers was princely. Himself and wives dressed in very costly apparel; and he often wore about his person many pounds weight of pure rock gold: this was the fatal talisman. "If," said the Pinins, "Coffee can afford to wear so much gold, his strong box must be full." He was too rich a prize to escape their fangs, and too incautious a man not to be entrapped into a palaver, which soon plunged him into the bottomless pit, or Court of Chancery in the Brafoo country. The Chancery, unfortunately for Tom, was at this time without a suit, and the lawyers without a brief; he, therefore, was soon stripped of his wealth; and the

last time I saw him, he was living at Cape Coast, in great poverty and obscurity, happy in having escaped with his liberty, while his more cautious contemporary and townsman was enjoying at Annamaboo, unmolested, that property which was the fruit of his industry, and which his superior sagacity and prudence had been the means of preserving.

The Pinins of Annamaboo are well pleased when they can involve in a palaver an European; for they expect a rich harvest, and prompt payment. This experiment they tried upon us, though, fortunately, without effect. Being anxious not to be entirely dependent on the natives for a supply of fish, some nets were purchased for the use of the vessel, and which were set every evening, and examined every morning, to receive their produce. Taking or disturbing the net of a fisher, is considered a heinous offence by the Fantees, and, when detected, is punished by a heavy

fine being imposed on the offending individual. A number of nets had been stolen, and as ours were purchased at Cape Coast unknown to the natives of Annamaboo, we were supposed to be the guilty persons. Accordingly, a few days after we had commenced using them, we were surprised by a visit from the Pinins, or elders, who came on board in full costume, to demand reparation for their injured countryman. Independently of the advanced age of these gentlemen, they have in their dress some distinguishing marks, and, like Quakers, always wear their hats wherever they may be, and which have forms peculiar to their calling, by which they are as readily known in the villages where they reside, as counsellors are by their wigs in Courts of Assize. These hats are made of straw, have broad brims, perfectly circular, and shallow crowns, with tufts of dried grass in the centres, and which are probably used to cover pericraniums as naturally acute and

sagacious as those immense, powdered, hairy, three-bobbed wigs are, that seem to give importance, and apparent wisdom to the logical nobs of English barristers.

The Pinins, with much gravity in their countenances, took their seats in the cabin, and, being supplied with half a pint each of neat brandy, swallowed it, glass after glass, in quick time, and gave increased zest to this their favourite beverage, by making their mouths receptacles for it, instead of their stomachs, where the brandy remained until more was ready to replace it, when it was allowed to pass into its natural depositary. Having performed all due homage to their favourite god, Bacchus, Obeky, the senior of the eight, opened the case, and addressed me as follows:—"You be old man for dis country; you all same Ammoonicummy son; you all same Fantee man; you do bad nobody; you owe one leaf tabac, you pay; all poor canoe man like sell you fowl, duck, yam, fish too. You

no want fish now; you catch 'em all same black man: you hab black man net too. Agar man, name Quacoo, lose net; some man teef him; we no say you teef him; you hab for ship, *Brinny omo* (white man bad), no know we custom. Suppose he be teef for *Aberrikirry* (England), he no be teef for dis water: suppose black man teef, he catch palaver; *Brinny* teef catch palaver too."

In this strain of Fantee eloquence, Obeky continued his harangue during a period of fifteen or twenty minutes. His comrades, otherwise silent, when any thing in his speech pleased them, called out, "*Ampa, ampa!*" or true, true! a practice they adopt when speechifying in large assemblies on shore, and which may be considered something similar to the "hear, hear!" in the Commons House of Parliament. When he had concluded his speech, I called two black boys, the sons of gold-takers, into the cabin, who informed the Pinins that they had seen the nets purchased by me from Quashy

Too, at Cape Coast: on receiving this information, they were evidently disappointed, and, instead of receiving three or four ounces of gold, besides the value of the nets, which they had calculated on, were happy to obtain, in the way of compliment, two gallons of brandy, a few pipes, and leaves of tobacco, when they retired in tolerable good humour, first making a suitable apology for their unjust suspicion and intrusion.

The period had arrived, when Tacky Mensa, a wealthy trader and inhabitant of Annamaboo, had to make custom for his ancestors. Five unfortunate victims were to be immolated to the manes of the deceased, and gunpowder, brandy, cloth, and provisions, distributed to the multitude. A vast number of persons assembled at Annamaboo, from different parts of the republic of Fantee, to assist at, and give importance to the ceremony. A little before day break in the morning, when the obse-

quies for the deceased commenced, vollies of muskets, the noise of drums, and savage shouts, were heard in every direction; and about eight o'clock, a large concourse of persons, of both sexes and all ages, had collected at and near Tacky Mensa's house, to whom brandy was distributed in large quantities. Firing, shouting, and drinking, continued till mid-day, when the five victims were brought out from a hut with their hands bound, and with ligatures made of the bine of a creeping plant surrounding their heads, and which came over their eyes and noses, and by introducing pieces of sticks, and twisting them round, making what sailors call Spanish windlasses; the bones of their noses were forced in, and their eyes sunk deeper in their sockets. One of these unfortunate beings was a very old Asshantee man, the remaining four were natives of Chamba, and all men; two of whom were middle-aged, one very old, the other young. Before they were led to

execution, every effort was made by the Europeans to purchase them, but without effect. The poor creatures, in this state of suffering, were paraded through the town, and received every ignominy that savage cruelty could devise or inflict, without a sigh escaping them, and were ultimately taken to the beach, under the very walls of the fort, where they were butchered amidst the most savage and diabolical shouts of the multitude. Even females assisted at the horrid ceremony, and marked themselves with the blood of the wretched victims, as it flowed from their headless trunks; and, horrible to relate, libations of brandy were poured into, and drank from human skulls, which a few minutes before had life and being. Vollies of musketry were fired, savage dances performed, and intoxication was carried to excess during three days and three nights, when the custom making ceased. Their customs, or obsequies to the manes of deceased ancestors, are often car-

ried to such excess by individuals, as to leave them in a state of extreme poverty; but all men of consequence are compelled, at some period of their lives, to perform this savage act of duty to those who have long been numbered with the dead, or they would be degraded, and held in the lowest estimation by their countrymen; but more especially by their own townsmen.

A short time after this event, captain Agry, a native of Cape Coast, and a man of wealth and consequence died. He had long lingered under the malady which finally terminated his existence, and as it is the practice of the Fantees to execute the crabba, and cransa, or the youngest wife, where marriage has not been consummated, and the boy who carries the smoking apparatus belonging to a great man, the moment the breath leaves his body; the progress of his disease was watched with the utmost anxiety, by Mr. Field, the governor of the castle, who was determined to rescue from

a premature death, the young, and destined victims. The surgeon of the castle, who had access to the dying chief, gave notice to the governor of his approaching dissolution, and the children were by stratagem brought within the walls of the castle, before the fatal event arrived that would have sealed their doom, and sent them to an untimely grave. The girl was about eleven years of age, and the boy nine or ten. The friends and townsmen of the deceased, used every entreaty, and much art to obtain possession of them from the governor, and even descended to menaces, but without effect. Agry was, therefore, interred without the usual and shocking sacrifice having been performed at his demise, or funeral; and his relations, a few months afterwards, accepted from the governor, a quantity of brandy and gunpowder, to be expended over his grave, as an equivalent for the lives of the two children, who, at the expiration of twelve months,

were permitted to join the family of the deceased, and lived to express their gratitude to their protector wherever they saw him, for having rescued them from a dreadful and premature death. The circumstance of another individual being saved from a sanguinary and unmerited death, by a gentleman of the castle, took place while I was there.

One night we were called from our beds in the castle, by the sentinel on duty giving an alarm of fire, and the drums beating to arms. When we got on the ramparts, we observed beneath us several houses in the town and near the eastern wall of the fort in flames, which spread with great rapidity, as it was the dry season, the houses crowded together, and built of very combustible materials, which, during half an hour, when the whole town was on fire, emitted so extensive and brilliant a blaze, as to give to the surrounding scenery, a character of sublimity and grandeur, beyond anything

I had ever witnessed. The night was unusually dark, and not a breath of wind disturbed a leaf of the forest. The flames rose perpendicularly, and illuminated the whole of the east and north sides of the fort, and of the high buildings in its centre, forming the storehouses, and residence of the governor and garrison; the long dark shadows of which fell upon the sea that was brightly illuminated on each side of them to a considarable distance, and the surface of which was tranquil, and smooth as a mirror, except where the surf, rolling in heavy masses on the shore and covering it with white foam, gave notice of its proximity. Light and shade were finely contrasted and shewn in the dense woods which clothed the hills in the back ground, as they were prominent, or otherwise; and the groups of natives assembled on the beach, either in despair at witnessing the destruction of their property, or busily employed in removing it and their canoes fur-

ther from the destroying element, the ignition of gunpowder, which occasionally drove the light and burning embers of the roofs of the houses in which it was deposited high into the air, like sky-rockets, gave to the whole an almost indescribable effect. But the materials, which fed the devouring flames, were as transient as volatile; and, in a few minutes, those objects, which were as visible to the eye as during the splendour of a meridian sun, became as it were extinct in a moment; and the darkness of Erebus almost instantaneously succeeded to the brightest possible fire light that can well be conceived, and the effect, on those who witnessed this sudden transition, was like magic.

If Rome was not built in a day, Cape Coast town was nearly rebuilt in that time; for every man in it is a mechanic of sufficient ability to erect a dwelling for himself and family, and the materials necessary to be used on the occasion, are abundantly supplied by the woods in the vicinity. The

poor fellow, in whose house the fire first commenced, lost all his property, and with it, nearly his life; for it is the practice in Fantee, as well as in the Dahomian territory, to execute the person in whose house a fire first commences. He was a company's slave, and the principal cooper to the castle; and had it not been for Mr. Jackson, the store-keeper, he would have been taken and decapitated, but that gentleman heard accidentally (from one of the sentinels who was on duty when the fire began) that it had its origin in Attah's house, and, knowing the consequence, went immediately into the burning town, and brought him into the fort, from which he dare never afterwards go, until he embarked in the night in a canoe belonging to D'Elmina, and was put on board of a vessel bound to the West Indies, in which his protector also embarked. He accompanied Mr. Jackson to England, where he obtained his freedom, and afterwards went with him

to Demerary, where he remained his faithful and grateful servant to the day of his death. The natives of Cape Coast used every effort to obtain possession of his person, and which, it was apprehended, they would at some period accomplish; this was the principal inducement for the governor to send him out of the country, for he was a very useful man, and a great favourite with European residents generally.

Panyaring, or kidnapping individuals, in order to obtain restitution of goods, or money, that have been unjustly withheld, is common in Fantee. If a resident of Annamaboo owes a native of Tantum money, and will not discharge the debt, or detains his property improperly, the first native of that place, who may fall into the hands of the creditor, is detained by him in durance, until the debt is settled, or property restored, and which is often quickly done; for the detenue's family imme-

diately compels the debtor to release their relation by discharging the debt.

Brandying is a mode of high gambling, and which consists of two individuals, whose opinions are at variance, betting a quantity of brandy, as to which of their opinions is correct, the arbiters in such cases being the Pinins. Each individual causes a number of casks of brandy to be rolled into the street, puncheon, against puncheon, until the quantity staked, often amounts to six or eight, especially if the gamblers be wealthy. The administering of gold dust to the Pinins by each party often disturbs their judgement; and as the spectators are interested in having the verdict delayed, the arbiters are very accommodating, by protracting, or extending the examination of evidence, until one half of the brandy is expended by the crowd, and they have a handsome sum in gold to divide amongst themselves, when they give final judgement.

The reception, which Europeans receive

from the natives on their first going to reside amongst them, is not the most pleasant, although well intended. A considerable number of them collect on the beach, ready to receive their visitor, when he first puts his foot on the shore. The ceremony of shaking hands with the principal men, and *akio brinny*, which means, how do you do white man, or, we are glad to see you, once over, the procession moves slowly on to the town, during which period, a constant discharge of musketry takes place; and the nearer one of the persons so employed, can fire his musket to his visitor's face, the greater honour he conceives he confers on him; so that while he moves his head quickly to the right in consequence of the stunning noise of a musket discharged close to his left ear, one of his hospitable friends, singes the whiskers of his right cheek. On arriving in the town, he is shown into a house, which is to be his future residence; and little presents, con-

sisting of vegetables, poultry, and fruit, are brought to him by the women, for which a handsome return is expected. Brandy, pipes, and tobacco, are then distributed to the crowd, which soon afterwards disperse, except a few of the principal men, who remain in a group, and speculate on the probable benefits their new guest is likely to confer on them.

Suicide is held here in such abhorrence, that a family considers it one of the greatest misfortunes that can happen to it, when one of its members is guilty of the crime. The eldest son of John Adoo, a wealthy native of Annamaboo, hung himself; which caused the principal members of his family to shut themselves up in their houses for some time. When they appeared in public, shame and grief seemed to cover, and afflict them; and it was remarked, that their townsmen were cautious never to mention the name of the deceased in their presence, which evinced a degree of feeling,

and respect for a distressed family, that could scarcely have been expected from those, who could sacrifice human beings in so cruel, and wanton a manner, as we have described. When I inquired why he had hanged himself, they answered, *abuddam*, he was a madman.

Attah is the Fantee name for twin, and all twins born in Fantee, bear that name, the mothers of whom, are held in much estimation for being thus prolific. In Bonny, the reverse takes place; for there the mothers of twins are compared to goats, and they, as well as their offspring, are not unfrequently destroyed.

The Fantees and Asshantees may be classed together as one nation, the former occupying the sea-shore, and the country extending a few miles from it into the interior, and the latter a great extent of territory north of it.

The Fantees are black as jet, muscular, and well-formed, and those that are en-

gaged in fishing and employed as canoe-men, can endure much bodily fatigue, although they often make excuses to abridge their labour, however well they may be paid for it; for they are anxious to have the labour of the day concluded by noon, in order that they may wash and dress, and gossip with their neighbours the remainder of the day.

Their national mark is three small perpendicular incisions on each temple, and on the nape of the neck.

In the construction of their dwellings and canoes, they exhibit much superiority and skill over other African tribes; the former being substantially built, and not unfrequently having apartments over those on the basement story, and the latter having a form which renders them less liable to upset, or, to speak in a sailor's phrase, not so crank.

The Fantee women are well formed, and many of them are not wanting in personal beauty, as their features are small, their

limbs finely rounded, their hands and feet small, and their teeth uniformly white and even. The toilette of one of these females consists of a large calabash, containing a small mirror, paint (generally white), teeth-brushes made of a very fibrous tough wood, a bark which has a powerful musky smell, grease, and soap. She has also a large brass pan, in which she generally washes herself from head to foot every day. She often consumes an hour or two in adorning her person; and in the application of her paint, the management of her hair, and the scenting of her person, discovers no inconsiderable degree of skill.

Young females, on arriving at the age of puberty, are dressed in their best garments, and have their persons adorned with the gold belonging to their families and acquaintances. In this garb they are paraded through the town by a number of their own sex. This ceremony is intended to acquaint the men that the lady is marriageable.

The women here, however, as well as in most other parts of Africa, sow and reap, grind corn, carry wood and water, and perform all the drudgery attendant on housekeeping; while their husbands are perhaps gossipping, drinking, or sleeping, except during the herring or fishing season, when the villages along the sea-coast present a scene of bustle and activity much beyond what they do in ordinary times. Then, all is life and animation. A smooth sea, a still atmosphere, and shoals of herrings, cause every canoe capable of service to be launched. These, with two or three fishermen in each, proceed outside of the surf, where they use the cast net with great address. This is twisted three or four times round the right arm of the individual who throws it; the depending or lower part of which, is loaded at short distances with lead, for the purpose of spreading and sinking it. With a jerk he casts it from him, having first given it a quick, circular motion, by which

means the lead flies off in radii, as from the centre of a circle, and spreads the net to its extreme circumference, which is generally thirty or forty feet; and, as it sinks in the water, incloses such fish as cannot escape. Having reached the bottom, it is gently drawn by a cord attached to its crown, or centre, until it is collapsed, when it is hauled up, and the fish shook out of it into the canoe. These fish are afterwards cured by being smoked, or dried in the sun; and which, with maize, constitute the chief food of the inhabitants. Maize is ground between two stones, of which the lower one is large, ponderous, and concave at the upper surface; the lesser stone is worked upon it by the hand, and pulverizes the grain, which, during the operation, is occasionally moistened with water: this mode of grinding corn is common in North Africa. After it has been thus ground, it is permitted to become slightly acid, when it is boiled, or baked, to suit the palate of the

consumer, and, in either state, forms a pleasant and nutritious food. It is called by the natives *canky;* they call European biscuit, *panoo.*

Daughters are purchased from their fathers for wives, and are paid for according to the rank and wealth of the bridegroom and the bride's father. The common price of a wife is one ounce of gold, one anker of brandy, and cloth of the value of one ounce in trade.

Children amuse themselves by a game similar to our hunting the slipper; and those residing in the villages near the seashore, obtain pieces of broken canoes, which they launch, and paddle outside of the surf, when, watching a proper opportunity, they place their frail barks on the tops of high waves, which, in their progress to the shore, carry them along with great velocity; and the principal art of these young canoe-men consists in preserving their seats while thus hurried along, and which they can only do

by steering the planks with such precision, as to prevent them broaching to; for when that occurs, they are washed off, and have to swim to regain them, while their more dexterous companions reach the shore amidst the plaudits of the spectators, who are assembled on the beach to witness their dexterity. Little urchins, of not more than six or seven years of age, amuse themselves in this way, and swim like ducks.

The natives of CHAMBA, of whom many are sold on the Gold Coast, inhabit a country lying to the north of Asshantee. Their stature is generally above the middle size; and the colour of their skins is not of so deep a black as those of the Fantee or Asshantee. They are an agricultural people, whose dispositions are mild, tractable, and inoffensive; and, of all the negroes inhabiting the countries north of the equator, that have come under my observation, they are the most passive. In fact, they may be called a simple people, who never

exhibit any sullenness of manner, but a uniform willingness to do to the best of their ability whatever they are desired; and the term *dunco*, which, in the Fantee language, signifies stupid fellow, or ignorant man from the back country, is invariably given to them by the Fantees, as a term of derision, in consequence. To the Fantees, as well as to the Asshantees, they have a strong aversion, because they consider these people as the authors of their misfortunes, and the chief instruments used in removing them from their country; therefore, whenever insurrections have occurred on board of slave ships on the Gold Coast, as the Fantees and Asshantees were invariably the promoters of them, the Chambas, as if to be revenged on them, always assisted the crews in suppressing these mutinies, and keeping them in subjection.

The tattoo, or national mark, of this race, consists of three strong lines drawn from the temple over each cheek to the chin,

and taking the form of the longitudinal lines upon a globe.

When they first arrive upon the sea-coast, they are very meagre, in consequence of the fatigue experienced by them in their long journey from the interior; but their constitutions being excellent, they are soon restored to their natural vigour and plumpness, by rest and plentiful diet.

For a country, lying only five degrees north of the equator, which is the middle latitude of the Gold Coast at its southern boundary, its temperature may be considered moderate; the thermometer of Fahrenheit only averaging throughout the year, 78°, as registered by Governor Dalzel at Cape Coast Castle; and during the wet season, it often sinks to 73°, or 74°. The days are generally cloudy, owing to the prevailing south-west wind loading the atmosphere with moisture, and which gives it a haziness, when not otherwise clouded, that diminishes the intensity of the sun's rays,

and renders them more supportable than in the West Indies, where the sun shines with a brilliance, and unobstructed splendour, seldom seen or felt in this part of Africa. The nights, nevertheless, during the dry season, are cloudless; and the moon and stars shine with unusual brightness in a clear, deep blue sky.

When the sun first rises, and until it has attained an altitude of eight or nine degrees, it presents, about the periods of the equinoxes (when day-light and that luminary arrive almost simultaneously), a singular appearance; for its apparent dimensions are greatly increased by refraction, and it rises cold, dull, spiritless, and rayless, the appearance of the morning being at this time the extraordinary one of that of twilight with the sun above the horizon, caused by the earth's place on the ecliptic, and the peculiar state of the atmosphere.

The wet season is of shorter duration than in many parts of Africa that I have

visited, and the seasons are generally milder, and assume more favourable aspects; yet, notwithstanding, the climate is very obnoxious to the health of Europeans.

The face of the country, from Appolonia to Accra, is undulating, and covered with shrubbery and timber of small growth, except in the vicinity of towns, where some patches of ground are cultivated with the hand hoe, and in which maize and yams are grown. The country, to the north of it, and of that extending from Appolonia to the westward as far as Piccaninny Bassam, is rich in gold, as the quantity annually exported, and in general circulation, proves; especially when we take into consideration the imperfect knowledge which the natives have in mining, and that their principal supply of gold is derived from the surface of the earth, and is that which is washed from it during the periodical rains, and which is afterwards collected on the banks of rivers and small streams, after their waters

have subsided. The manner of obtaining or washing for gold, is as follows: a quantity of soil is collected near a stream, or at the sea-side, in which gold is known to be, a portion of which is put into a tolerable sized calabash, which is filled with water, and then mixed together; and while the soil is held in solution, a quick rotatory motion is given to the calabash, by which means the mixture is made to fly over its side, and the gold, by its specific gravity, sinks to the bottom. I have often watched women and children employed in this way, and thought their labour but ill requited, the quantity of gold obtained by each individual being inconsiderable: from each calabash of soil only a few very minute particles of this metal were procured. The soil, from which I saw it obtained, was siliceous, and very similar to that in which iron is cast, in England.

There are some valuable dye woods, especially a bright yellow, like turmeric; and

the scented wood, that females use at their toilettes, strongly resembles, in colour and smell, the sandal wood, so highly esteemed in the East. It is very probable, also, that the fly, so strongly resembling the cantharides, possesses all its qualities.

CHAPTER II.

Dahomy—Grewhe, the trading town—Forts: French, English, and Portuguese—Governor Abson—King of Dahomy—Miraculous escape of a French sailor from drowning—Country surrounding Grewhe, described—Fisherman and alligator—Ants—Hyenas: mode of taking them—Bats—Singular Customs—Ardrah; the road to it: the country described—Tammata, a wealthy trader—Markets—Manufactures—Industry of the inhabitants—Hio: its extent—The Hio people described—Natives of Houssa—Badagry—Lagos—Cradoo lake—Trade of Lagos; customs; population—King Cootry: his levee; his fetiche—The devil's visits to Lagos: its policy—Hippopotami—Alligators: a large one killed by a watering party—Medium of exchange—Jaboos: their country and industry.

GREWHE, which may be called the sea port of the kingdom of Dahomy, is in latitude 6° 17′ north, and longitude 3° 6′ east, of Greenwich. It is a populous town, and contains, probably, six or seven thousand

inhabitants. In passing to it from the sea-shore, a lagoon is to be forded, which is a quarter of a mile over, and the same distance from the beach, to which it runs parallel to the east, and communicates with the sea at Popo, but terminates in a wooded morass to the west, which morass intersects the road to Ardrah.

Three forts have been erected near the town (all since abandoned) by the English, French, and Portuguese; they are all built of clay baked in the sun, and the form of that belonging to the English is a parallelogram, with a high bastion at each angle having embrasures in them. Three sides of the parallelogram are occupied as store-houses, and dwellings for the company's slaves; the remaining one forms the governor's range of apartments, the windows of which front the sea, and from them vessels at anchor in the road are plainly seen. The whole is surrounded by a deep, dry, and broad ditch, having one passage

over it into the fort. The bastions are in a state of great dilapidation, and for any purposes of defence, wholly useless. The guns are honeycombed, and without carriages, and those used for saluting are placed outside the fort upon pieces of wood. When the captain of H. M. S. Charon was asked if he had heard the salute fired in honor of the arrival of H. M. ship, his reply was, that he had seen a smoke in the bush: and he said truly, for the touch-holes of the guns, in consequence of long exposure to the weather, had become so wide, that when fired, the explosion was scarcely audible at the distance of half a mile.

Mr. Lionel Abson, the governor (subsequently deceased), had at this period, resided fifteen years at Wydah, and in habits and manners had nearly become a Dahomian; and it always forcibly struck me, when I saw him in the society of the natives, whose language he spoke fluently, that he

preferred their company to that of Europeans; indeed, it was a rare occurrence for him to pay a social visit to an European resident, although he treated them with much urbanity and politeness, whenever they were pleased to pay him ceremonious or friendly visits. Indolence made him a complete philosopher, for no human being could be more happy with his lot; and the only circumstances which appeared to give him any uneasiness were when any exertion was necessary, that compelled him to overcome his *vis inertiæ*, or, when the few European luxuries, to be supplied to him annually from Cape Coast, had long exceeded the usual period of their arrival; and which was too often the case, for his station was so remote from the other English establishments in Africa, that few opportunities presented themselves to the governor in chief, to forward his supplies with any degree of regularity or certainty. His pipe was his chief companion, an English newspaper his

greatest luxury; for he took much interest in the passing events of Europe, and being endowed with an extraordinary memory, he became almost a chronicle of the times in which he lived, although placed in a region so remote.

The king of Dahomy, an artful and tyrannical villain, took advantage of poor Abson's passive disposition, for he became as much his slave as any one of his subjects. His liberty was so much abridged, that he often could not obtain permission to visit a vessel in the road, as the Evougah had a general order from the king not to permit him to leave the shore. And he was so often prevented doing so, under one frivolous pretext or another, that for many years previous to his decease, he declined all invitations rather than incur the displeasure of the king, or subject himself to the mortification of a refusal; although the refusal was always accompanied with a flattering message, such as, the king loved

him so much, that he was apprehensive he might be drowned; or, a ship might run away with him; that he was his right-hand, and the only person who could settle any disputes that might occur between his subjects and captains of vessels. Indeed, the latter often accused him of acting partially towards the former, in the settlement of any differences that existed between them. He followed, in his domestic establishment, the customs of the country, by having a plurality of wives, by one of whom he had several children. His eldest boy, George, was sent to Europe, where he was taught to read and write; and soon after his return from thence to Wydah, he became one of the most incorrigible thieves in Africa, and was the cause of much uneasiness to his father.

The French fort presented, at this time, a very different appearance to the English one; but then the supplies sent out to it by the French government were very ample,

it being the only fort in this part of Africa belonging to France; whereas the latter was a mere appendage to the superior establishments in the Gold Coast, and, in many little arrangements for the better maintenance of those forts and their officers, poor Abson and his fort were sometimes forgotten. Besides, the French in southern climates have the happy talent of introducing an air of neatness and comfort into their dwellings and domestic establishments, such as Englishmen are celebrated for in their own country.

The family in the French fort had been considerably increased in number, by a captain and officers, who were left on shore, in consequence of their vessel being compelled to quit Wydah at a moment's notice, when the account arrived of war having commenced between France and England. The French fort became a scene of much gaiety, and dinners were frequently given by the governor to the European residents;

while Captain Defaud and his officers remained with him. It was rather a novel spectacle in this remote and uncivilised part of the world to see a dozen Europeans surrounding a dinner table set out in sumptuous style, and covered with excellent viands, and the best French wines, whilst a very tolerable band played a number of national airs during the repast, the most prominent of which were, *ca ira*, and the Marseillois hymn; for this was the period when the revolutionary mania was at its maximum. It was during one of these dinners, that the company were surprised by the appearance of a man, whom all present supposed to have been drowned: his name was Jean Papineau, and he was a seaman belonging to Captain Defaud's ship, employed in one of her boats, trading between Porto Nova and Wydah. The boat had arrived at Wydah, the officer commanding which reported, that, soon after he got under weigh from Porto Nova, a tornado came on,

and that, while Papineau was in the act of furling the topsail, he fell overboard. It was about 8 o'clock in the evening when the accident occurred; and the wind blew with so much violence, that it was some time before the poor fellow was missed, and his fate known to his officer; and no doubt whatever was entertained by him but that he had perished. He, however, by great muscular power, and skill in swimming, was enabled to keep himself above water all night without any extraneous aid, and when he was picked up at 6 o'clock the following morning, by the ship Liverpool Hero's boat, about a quarter of a mile from the shore, he said, that he felt confident he could have reached the shore in safety, without any assistance whatever. Joy at seeing him, and Liberty and Equality, being the order of the day, he was immediately placed at the dinner table, with a bottle of claret before him, when he related to the company what his feelings and resources

were during his perilous situation. The tornado had come on with unusual violence just when he had got the sail secured, and he said that he was literally blown overboard, and fell into the water about a foot clear of the vessel's side. He called out, but the wind and sea made too much noise for him to be heard, and the vessel was quickly out of sight, scudding before the storm. He was aware, that he was only three or four miles from the shore, and being an excellent swimmer, he was determined to struggle for his life. Sharks alone gave him any uneasiness, but even them he wasdetermined to contend with. Sailors, in order to secure their knives, fasten them by lanyards, either to the flaps of their trowser's pockets, or round their neck. Papineau's was secured to his neck, and the possession of this weapon (which fortunately he had no occasion to use) gave him confidence against the tiger of the deep. Soon after he got into the water, he

divested himself of his shirt and trowsers, and tied his handkerchief about his head; the tornado continued to blow strong for an hour, when the wind veered to the northward, and blew fresh from the land during the greater part of the night, which retarded his progress to the shore. He swam towards it, as nearly as he could calculate, about half an hour at a time, and that alternately on his back, and on his stomach, when he would rest himself, by remaining nearly motionless on his back for as long a period, with his head generally as he supposed towards the shore; and he often fancied that he had made much greater progress towards it than proved to be the case: for the wind blowing from the land, and his ear being nearly on a level with the water, caused the sound of the surf roaring on the beach to be sometimes so audible, as to give him the impression of his being just about to enter it, when he would renew his exertion of swimming, and be disap-

pointed in the result. His remaining so long in the water as ten hours, and without any support but what he derived from his own exertion, appears almost fabulous; and can only be accounted for by his superior muscular strength and self-possession, being aided by the temperature of the water approaching that of his body, by which means, heat was but slowly (if at all) abstracted from it; the specific gravity also of sea water being in all probability considerably augmented near the equator by excessive evaporation, his body floated in it without much muscular exertion being required.

The country surrounding Grewhe is fertile, open, and level, exhibiting large savannahs covered with high grass, although in some parts thickly wooded with fine grown trees. To the north of the town are some well cultivated lands producing pease, calavancies, maize, and yams, over which passes the road leading through the towns

of Xavier and Tory to Abomey, the king's usual residence.

A few miles to the north-west of Tory is the western extremity of the lagoon, or lake of Ardrah; and in the vicinity of Tory there is a very favourite spot in the river to which elephants resort to bathe. Herds of them are often to be seen; and it is an annual custom with the European residents at Grewhe, to make a party of pleasure to visit the elephant grounds, or to go, as they called it, an elephant shooting. One of these animals, having by accident separated from the herd, was seen, early one morning, in front of the English fort. The town was soon in arms, and gave chace, expecting no doubt to have a fine feast; but the animal, with admirable sagacity, made a circuit, and avoided the French fort, and the straggling houses between it and the English one, galloped off into the woods, and eluded his pursuers, who, in the course of the chace, had often fired at it without effect.

The monarch of Dahomy is a most rapacious fellow, and treats even Europeans with but little courtesy; for he frequently, under some frivolous pretext, embarrasses them in their trade in order to extort presents from them, and sometimes prevents captains from visiting their vessels, without first obtaining his special permission. Of his rapacity the following is a memorable instance.

The boat employed in watering the ship which I commanded, having seven men in her, broke adrift one night from her moorings whilst they were all asleep, and it was not until the boat was in the breakers that the crew awoke, and became sensible of their perilous situation. To retreat was impracticable, for the boat was soon filled with water, and drifted through the breakers upon the shore, where the crew also landed in perfect safety, some by swimming, others by adhering to the boat, oars, &c. At day-break, they were surrounded by a

number of natives, who, after spending a few minutes in consultation, told them, they must be taken to the king at Abomey, a distance of 90 miles, although they were only 4 or 5 miles from Grewhe, where I then resided. They remonstrated against this proceeding, but remonstrance was in vain, and one of them, who to escape so disagreeable a journey affected lameness, and said, "that he could not walk," had his hands and feet tied together, and a pole introduced between them, and in this way, they were going to carry him to Abomey, when, to avoid so painful an alternative, he found the use of his limbs, and marched along with his unfortunate companions. These poor fellows reached Abomey the fourth day; and a negociation was commenced by me with the Evougah for their redemption, as soon as he received the king's orders respecting them. His first demand was the price of a prime slave (equal to 14*l.* sterling) for each individual,

but the demand was afterwards lowered to 6*l.* which I paid, when the captives, after a fortnight's stay at the metropolis of Dahomy, were permitted to return to Grewhe, and join their ship, where, soon afterwards, they were all attacked with fever, and four of them died.

Whilst at Abomey, the king endeavoured to prevail on the man who affected lameness to remain with him; for to ensure good treatment, he had entertained him with some slight of hand tricks and mimickry; but he refused every overture, when the king, in a great passion, said "he would compel him to stay at Abomey." The poor fellow told him, "if his shipmates went away without him he would destroy himself." The king seemed to feel uneasy at this, and consulted one of his principal men, who advised him to permit the man to return with his companions, which was granted.

About this period an industrious fisher-

man was brought to the English fort, and placed under the care of Mr. Alexander (brother of the present admiral Alexander), surgeon, and second in command. He had been fishing in the lagoon near the beach, and when in the act of disengaging his net, which had become entangled at the bottom, he was seized by an enormous alligator, which lacerated his thighs in a dreadful manner. But he disengaged himself from it, and even had the perseverance and courage to clear his net, and bring it to the shore; where he was found in a state of great exhaustion from the loss of blood. But unfortunately, notwithstanding Mr. Alexander's care and attention, his wounds became gangrenous, and he expired in a few days. Mr. Abson told me, that this was a solitary instance during his time, of any person losing his life by an alligator, at Wydah; although the lagoon is daily forded by all those who have occasion to go to the beach. But there is no doubt but the very

frequency of fording it, drive those animals to parts of the lagoon that are deeper, and less frequented; and where it is said hippopotami are also sometimes to be seen. The ant is here an extremely destructive insect, and from their size, number, and voracity, commit depredations, that are scarcely to be credited. The bug-a-bug (the native name for the termes, or white ant) is an insidious, and destructive enemy; he is the pioneer ant, who works under a covered way, and often destroys chests, and their contents, before any mischief is apprehended. The larger ants have been known to strip bare to the bone the carcase of a cow in a single night. And Mr. Abson informed me, that he was once reduced to that state of debility by a severe attack of fever, as to be so wholly helpless, that the ants attacked him in the night, when lying in his bed; and that if, fortunately, one of his domestics had not awoke, they would have devoured him before morning; so incapable was he

of calling for help, or struggling with his assailants. At the time he related this anecdote to me, I was confined by indisposition in the very room where the circumstance occurred, and did not feel very comfortable at the prospect of being, perhaps, eaten alive.

The leopard is sometimes a troublesome visitor to the town, destroying sheep, goats, and young cattle, as is also the hyæna. Those animals are very numerous, and haunt most African towns during the night: their noise is frightful. Many strange and fabulous anecdotes are related by the natives respecting them; such as, that they imitate the cries of most animals, so as to entrap them, and that they have been observed to walk upright, so as to resemble the human species. The natives of Grewhe sometimes catch them, by setting traps, similar to the rat-traps with falling doors. The sides of the trap are built like a house having a thatched roof, the door is placed at one end,

which is set open; when the hyæna enters and takes the bait (which is generally a piece of carrion) that is so placed as to communicate with the door by the roofs. It falls, and secures the animal: the natives then unthatch a part of the building, and shoot it. They are never to be seen during day-light, and the places to which they retire seem to be wholly unknown to the natives, as I have frequently interrogated them respecting their haunts.

In the centre of the market there is a large tree, very similar to the mulberry, except that the branches grow horizontal.

This tree presents a most extraordinary spectacle; for along its branches, thousands of bats, of the largest species, hang suspended by their claws, and with their heads downwards, during the day, and do not seem to be at all disturbed by the noise beneath them, although not in a state of somnolency. I shot several, each of which measured, between the extremities of the

wings, two feet; the form of their head bears a strong resemblance to that of a horse, but having the eyes, teeth, and whiskers of an immense rat.

One of the singular customs of the people of Grewhe, as well as those of Popo, is the admission of females into the order of priesthood; a custom which has not been noticed by Governor Dalzel, in his history of Dahomy. An account of the ceremony practised on this occasion may be amusing to the reader.

A young female, generally the daughter of a Fetiche Man or priest, is selected for the purpose, who undergoes a probationary penance that continues six months, previous to her admission into holy orders. During this period, she is initiated by the priests into all the mysteries and chicanery of the religion of their forefathers, which consisted in the worship of the black and white snake, and in the mummery of giving sanctity to bones, rags, &c.

When she appears in public during the period of her probation, her manner is grave and solemn; her skin is painted with a kind of white clay; rows of shells, of various forms and sizes, are hung upon her neck, arms, and ancles; and her loins are girt with long grass, which reaches to her knees. A dwelling is provided for her, in which she eats and sleeps alone, and into which none are admitted but fetiche men and women.

At the expiration of the six months a large assemblage of men, women, and children, accompanied by the various orders of priesthood, and the musicians belonging to the town, takes place on an open space of ground, to assist at, and also to witness, the last grand ceremony.

Soon after assembling, the women form a circle by joining hands, among whom are the companions of the novitiate's youth, and also her relations, who commence dancing circularly, reversing the movements alter-

nately, after making one complete circle. The dancing is accompanied by the most barbarous and horrid din imaginable, caused by the musicians beating on drums, tom-toms, gongs, and blowing horns manufactured out of elephant's teeth and reeds; to which are added the most strange and uncouth grimaces and contortions of the faces and bodies of the priests, so that a spectator might easily imagine them to be a number of maniacs, who had been turned loose to give effect to the ceremony: and were it not for the presence of the little children, who look on with fear and astonishment depicted in their countenances, would be no bad representation of Pandemonium.

The novitiate, soon after dancing commences, is brought out, by apparent force, from a little hut which had concealed her from the spectators, and placed in the centre of the circle formed by the dancing females, from whom she endeavours to escape to the hut whence she had been brought,

and this she is allowed to accomplish. This ceremony is repeated three times; an incantation is then delivered by the chief priest, and the farce ends.

One of the conditions by which a female is admitted into the order of priesthood, is that of leading a life of celibacy, and renouncing the pleasures of the world: and but few are admitted to enter it at all; for during a residence of many months at Grewhe, one ceremony only of this kind was performed, at which I was present.

There is a striking similarity in the conditions imposed on these poor deluded African women who are admitted into the priesthood, and many of those nuns, who, in catholic Europe, are forced to take the veil; only the former are instruments in the hands of fraud and oppression; while the others are too often the victims of domestic tyranny and ambition. But the lot of the savage African is far superior to that of the civilized European. For the former,

notwithstanding the restraints imposed on her, can enjoy the sweets of personal liberty, and has some scope for the play of her natural affections; whereas the latter is shut within the gloomy walls of a prison, where her short life is passed away in vain regret, and in the society of immolated beings, who are as melancholy and desponding as herself.

The natives of Dahomy are a fine looking people, docile, and, to their superiors, submissive even to extreme servility, which arises, no doubt, from the tyrannical form of their government; as it holds every man's life in the state disposable at will, and every man's daughter subservient to the sensual pleasure of a despotic savage, who is their governor. These people are industrious, and apply themselves to agriculture, as well as to the manufacturing of articles for domestic use; and the market of Grewhe exhibits as plentiful a supply of native produce as the market at Ardrah.

An extraordinary custom prevails among

the women of Dahomy, that of causing a considerable elongation of the *nymphæ* by artificial means. Barrow states, in his Travels in South Africa, such a conformation to be common to the Hottentots, but that in them it is natural. Many of the Dahomian women have very fine persons. The tattou, or national mark, is a single line drawn from the hair over the forehead, to the root of the nose.

The town of ARDRAH, so called by the natives, or Porto Nova, by the Portuguese, is situated between Wydah and Lagos, being forty-six miles from the former, and fifty from the latter, and lies in latitude 6°. 26′. north, and longitude 3°. 42′. east, of Greenwich, and distant from the sea about twenty-five miles.

The first mile of road from the beach is sandy; it is then unecessary to embark in a canoe, to navigate a swamp half a mile wide, which is the eastern termination of the lagoon that has its embouchure at Popo. This

swamp is entirely covered with wood, except the tortuous passage through which the canoes pass; and alligators, that are the fetiche of the Ardrahs, are to be seen in great numbers. The remainder of the road passes over a variegated country, part of which is thickly wooded and swampy; but the greatest portion of it is open and park-like, perfectly level and interspersed with trees. The village of Wacca is two-thirds of the distance from the sea to the lake; and there is another village on the margin of the lake, near which is the place of embarkation for those persons going to Ardrah. When I arrived at the latter village, I embarked in a canoe, and passed down a muddy creek. The canoe men were often compelled to get out, and haul the canoe along. We were not long, however, in emerging from the swamp, upon the surface of a beautiful lake, the eastern extremity of which communicates with Lagos river, about one mile from the sea. Opposite to Ardrah, the breadth

of the lake is three miles; but three or four miles to the westward of it, it spreads out, from north to south, ten or twelve miles, and has in this part a number of islands scattered upon its surface.

Ardrah seemed to me to be the most populous town (Benin excepted) of any that I had visited in Africa, and contains, probably, from seven to ten thousand inhabitants.

It is built in a very irregular manner, as towns in Africa generally are. The houses are made of clay, detached from each other, with a high wall surrounding each, in many of which are loopholes for musketry. The form of the town is elliptical, or rather is half an ellipsis, having the lake for the longest diameter: and along the line of its circumference there is a deep ditch, the clay from which has been raised into a wall about four feet high, and as many thick, some part of which is loop-holed.

Between the town, on its north-western

extremity, and the wall, are many well-cultivated fields, producing calavancies, maize, and pumpkins. The surrounding country is champaign, and finely wooded, the soil sandy and superficial, and the substratum is a bed of red loam or marl.

The morning after my arrival, and just as the rays of the sun were gilding the horizon, I was much surprized to see a group of blacks performing the ceremonies of the Mahometan religion, because I had never seen any other religion prevail than Paganism, in any of those towns in Africa where I had been. I, however, found that many persons in Ardrah professed the Mussulman faith, and were dressed after the Moorish fashion, with large loose trowsers, short shirt, and sash.

Outside and parallel with the wall, at the north-west extremity of the town, is the road which leads to HIO, a country of great extent, and inhabited by a powerful and warlike nation; the capital of which, ac-

cording to the natives' account, lies about NNE. from Ardrah, at the distance of nine days' journey, or 180 miles, allowing a traveller to proceed at the rate of twenty miles a day.

To the King of Hio the Ardrah people pay tribute, as he protects them from the incursions of the Dahomians, whose king has always been very jealous of their rivalry in trade.

The water of the lake is impregnated with salt, and unfit for domestic purposes, except during the rainy season. Wells have, therefore, been made in different parts of the town, which is a very unusual thing in this part of Africa.

The natives of Ardrah are industrious, and have acquired some proficiency in the arts, particularly in manufacturing cotton and iron. Cloths of various patterns, though simple, are made by them, both of cotton and grass, but chiefly of the former, into which they frequently weave threads taken

from the red India silk taffity, having no red dye which they can render permanent. The plant which yields indigo is indigenous to the soil; in fixing the colour extracted from which, they show much practical knowledge, although the process differs but little from the mode which Mr. Park saw adopted at Sansanding. Cotton thread is always dyed before it is woven and dressed. Kid-skins are tied all over in knobs, very tight, then soaked for some days in a strong dye, and, when untied, exhibit a pattern resembling a star, or rays of blue and white radiating from round blue spots. There are three or four smiths in the town, where are made hoes, cutlasses, nails, bolts, hinges, staples, and bits for bridles.

The bellows used by the smiths are ingeniously contrived, consisting of two rough goat-skins, set in the ground, two feet asunder, and resembling in form, when inflated, two kettle-drums reversed. A stick, about four feet long, is introduced into the

upper part of each skin, to which it is tied. The sticks serve as handles, and are moved alternately by a man having one in each hand. A pipe leads from each skin, and terminates in another pipe, before reaching the fire: at the junction, the pipes are not air-tight, so that one skin, by this means, receives air, while the other discharges it.

Soap is manufactured of wood-ashes and palm-oil; sandals, of bull and cow hides; baskets, of various forms, are ingeniously wrought and manufactured; also, earthenware, for culinary and other purposes; besides stools, canoes, and mats.

A singular custom prevails here, that of anointing, occasionally, the interior walls of houses with fresh cow-dung; a useful practice, for it dries quickly, has by no means an unpleasant smell, and fills up crevices, which would otherwise be tenanted by noxious and troublesome insects.

The Ardrahs are, in their persons, good-looking, muscular, and very black; and

their tattoo, or national mark, consists of three knobs of skin raised horizontally from each temple. Their dress is simple, and, like that of Africans in general, except in the case of those who have adopted the Moorish costume.

The government is republican, although some of the leading men exercise over the common people a kind of influence derived from hereditary right, and seem to divide the power of governing them, with others who have acquired considerable wealth by their commercial dealings.

These men, when they appear in public, either on visits of ceremony, or for recreation, are always attended by one or two hundred domestic slaves and retainers, who are armed with clubs, cutlasses, and other weapons.

The most wealthy man in the town is Tammata, but who is better known by his European name, Monsieur Pierre. He is a native of Housa, and was originally a slave

and taken to France by the master of a French vessel, when very young. Being a sharp boy, he was sent to school, where he was taught reading, writing, and accounts; and his services to his master, during his trading voyages to Africa, were afterwards so beneficial, that he gave him his freedom, and assisted him to commence business on his own account, by granting him credit to a considerable amount. Speaking the Housa, Eyeo, and French languages, his business (that of a slave merchant) became very extensive; and he soon outstripped his competitors in wealth and influence, which, as these increased, his dwelling was enlarged, the number of his wives and domestics augmented, and his whole establishment assumed something of a royal form. His house contains upwards of thirty apartments, and his seraglio nearly as many wives; and the whole is surrounded by a high mud wall, which encloses an area of about ten statute acres. His furniture is a

mixture of French and African; for, although he is ostentatious in the display of his European finery, his taste is pure African. He dresses as an European; and his *dejeunès* and *dinès* are quite *à la mode de Français*, of which a number of French officers are constant partakers, Monsieur Pierre sitting at the head, and performing the honours of the table. At his back are arranged a number of his youngest wives, who wait upon him exclusively, and place before him those dishes adapted to his taste; which consist of vegetables, fish, and animal food, highly seasoned, well buttered with palm oil, and wherein potash is mixed in lieu of salt, and which seasoning is very commonly used as a substitute for salt by the natives of Ardrah, Housa, and Eyeo. His wives tasted each dish in his presence, and before it was placed on the table; a precaution he is in the constant habit of having performed by them, in order to deter them from mixing any thing in his food of

a deleterious quality. Silver forks are appendages of his table; and I was often amused at the dexterity he displayed in their use, although he sometimes forgot himself, and thrust his black paw into the dish, instead of the fork, which disconcerted him for the moment, as it generally excited among his European guests a hearty laugh at his expense, which he by no means relished. Had one of his wives or domestics relaxed a muscle of their face on such an occasion, their liberty would, in all probability, have been forfeited for the offence. He is a man of naturally quick parts, but combined with a savage disposition, which neither education, nor a constant intercourse with Europeans, has at all ameliorated; and the acquisition of considerable property has operated upon him in the same manner as we often perceive it does on the low and vulgar, in civilized countries, by rendering them arrogant, despotic, and overbearing, and who, if they had the same power as this

African savage, would probably sacrifice, with as little remorse, the liberties, and even the lives of human beings, who might become objects of their suspicion or resentment.

Monsieur Pierre is naturally avaricious; the increase of his wealth therefore created an increased desire to secure it. He caused a considerable excavation to be made under one of the interior apartments of his dwelling, by a number of his domestic slaves, by whom, and his confidential females, the secret only was known; and to secure the secret still further, he had the poor fellows who made the excavation, put into sacks, and conveyed to the sea side by a number of Fantee canoe men, who afterwards took them on board of a French ship, then on the point of sailing for the West-Indies.

He gave (a little before I went to Ardrah) a proof of the ferocity of his disposition, by ordering the keeper of his slaves to be beheaded for having allowed two of them to

escape; and the headless trunk of his body, I saw tied up in a mat, and lying exposed in a hole, from which clay had been taken, and very near the gate which led to his dwelling. Among his European acquirements, that of blowing the French horn was his favorite, as he generally gave a few flourishes upon it every evening, especially, when any traders belonging to Hio had arrived from that kingdom, before whom he was very proud of exhibiting his skill. He is an excellent player at billiards, and has a large billiard table placed in a room built expressly for the purpose, the walls of which are mud lined with split bamboo, over which a fine paper is ingeniously placed; and against it, there hang several portraits of the various members of the Bourbon family. Elegant sofas and chairs complete the furniture of the apartment.

The face of the country about Ardrah, as I have before remarked, is extremely beautiful and fertile, producing all the ne-

cessaries of life in great abundance, and many of the valuable plants and fruits found in tropical climates, viz. the sugar cane, the plants which yield indigo and cotton, pine apples, guavas, limes, cocoa nuts, papaws, and a tree which yields a fruit (called by the natives soosee) resembling in form a large pippin; when ripe, it bursts at the outer extremity in a quadratic form, and exhibits four seeds very like windsor beans when husked. These beans are the only part of the fruit which are eaten, and are considered very nutritious. Strangers dislike them at first, but soon become very fond of them. They are peculiar to this part of Africa, that is, to Ardrah and Grewhe.

The market, particularly on the great market day, which is every sixth day, presents a scene of activity and bustle not often to be seen in African towns, and bears a strong resemblance to the markets held on Sundays in the West Indies, which are attended by the slaves from the country, who

bring to them their little stock of ground provisions, poultry, and fruit, for sale; and where may be also seen mixed with them, the hucksters belonging to the town, retailing European manufactures, salt beef, pork and herrings.

The avenues leading to the market at Ardrah, have commonly in them men selling bundles of fire-wood, earthenware of native manufacture, pigs and goats. The market, which is spacious, is occupied by a number of traders, many of whom have stalls covered with mats to protect them from the sun and rain, and on which are exhibited for sale the manufactures of Europe and India, of various kinds, such as handkerchiefs, both red and blue, from Manchester; linens, silesias from Germany, silk handkerchiefs, cuttanees and taffities from Madras; tobacco from the Brazils, in rolls, and also manufactured into snuff; iron, coral, cowries, beads, &c. There are also exhibited for sale, cloth from Eyeo and Jaboo,

spun cotton, dyed and otherwise; kid skins, dyed and dressed; sandals, hoes, clubs curiously carved and ornamented, straw hats, stools, potash, soap, indigo, leaves and stalks; also corn, calavancies, peas, yams, plantains, palm oil, ground nuts, pine apples, ducks, fowls, guinea hens, venison, beef, pork, honey, and palm wine.

The mode of manufacturing indian corn, both here, and at Badagry, and Lagos, is peculiar to these parts of Africa, and is as follows.

The maize being ground very fine, is then steeped in water until it becomes slightly acid, when all the farinaceous part is squeezed out by the hand, and the grosser particles are thrown to the fowls. In this state it is boiled, and the natives consume it whilst it is warm; it resembles exactly, in consistency and taste, the pottage used by the natives of Scotland, called sowens, and which is extracted from oatmeal by a similar process. It is also sometimes boiled

in slips of plantain leaves made up in triangular forms, and when cold, (in which state, it is generally eaten,) resembles very fine blanc-manger, and is a pleasant, cooling, and nutritious diet. In many of the avenues of the town, old women may be seen, early in the morning, retailing it in a warm state to their customers, who eat it as they receive it. Payment is made in cowries.

A great number of cattle are kept by the natives of Ardrah, the milk of which is consumed by the black mussulmans and European residents. Horses are also very numerous, well broken, and tractable; and the natives, especially those of Hio, manage them with considerable address. The use of milk, and the management of horses, there is little doubt, have been originally taught by the Moors to the natives of Housa and Hio, and, by them, to the inhabitants of Ardrah; indeed, I never saw but one horse on the whole line of coast, extending from Cape Palmas to Lagos, (except at

Ardrah) and that was at Accra. It had been a present from a chief in the interior, to the governor of Christiansburgh.

The Hios are a fine race of people, and are well skilled both in agriculture and in manufacturing articles for domestic purposes. The country which they inhabit is of great extent, being bordered on the north-east by Housa, on the south-west by Dahomy, and the influence of its government extends to the south as far as the sea by way of Ardrah.

If we are to believe the accounts of the natives, the king of Hio has an organized army amounting to 100,000 men, composed of infantry, and cavalry; but the natives of Africa are so prone to exaggerate every circumstance connected with the nation to which they individually belong, that it is very difficult to ascertain the truth, particularly as connected with the population of a town, the numerical force of an army, or the extent of a kingdom.

I heard of but one white man, who had ever been at the capital of Hio, and he was a French officer belonging to a slave ship. He certainly stated the population to be considerable, but by no means equal to what he had been taught to expect; and the army, as an African army, as far as he could judge, he thought to be a tolerably efficient one. A part of it was marshalled before him, and he strongly suspected that several of the corps were passed in review more than once, as corps which he had not before seen. This was a political stratagem that would hardly have been expected from an African savage; but the Frenchman had no doubt of the fact.

He was treated by the king while in Hio, with great distinction, although he thought himself closely watched. He was absent nearly a month, and described the country over which he passed, as level, wild, uncultivated, and possessing but a scanty population.

The cloth manufatured in Hio is superior, both for variety of pattern, color, and dimensions, to any made in the neighbouring states; and some of the articles wrought by them in iron exhibit much skill and ingenuity. It surprised me to find the Hio women as well as those of Housa acquainted with the taste of cheese, as well as with the mode of making it, which they described, and which left no doubt in my mind that it was an article of domestic consumption in these countries.

The Hios are extremely black and muscular, and generally above the middle size; in disposition they are mild, docile, and submissive. Their country mark on the face consists of three short cuts, each about one and a half inch long, running obliquely on each side of the mouth.

The natives of Housa are of the middle size, generally thin and active, with high cheek-bones. Their country mark consists of very small lines cut longitudinally upon

each cheek from the temples to the chin. They are an agricultural people, and inhabit a fertile country of great extent.

The town of Badagry, where considerable trade has been carried on by the slave dealers, is placed within three miles of the sea on the north bank of the lake or river that descends from Ardrah to Lagos, and is nearly equi-distant from those places. Its trade at one period was very extensive, for the customs exacted there were trifling both as it respected the inland traders and Europeans, which caused many of them to give it a preference to Lagos, as a trading station where the duties were exorbitant. It was also more conveniently situated for communicating with the shipping than Ardrah, and began to absorb a large portion of the trade of both places. But unfortunately it had not power to protect itself from the jealousy of those rival trading towns, who conspired its ruin, and soon effected it, by attacking it with a powerful

army and despoiling the inhabitants of all their property.

The town of Lagos is built on a bank or island, which appears to have been raised from Cradoo lake, by the eddies, after the sea and periodical rains had broken down the boundary which separated it from the ocean. The island is of inconsiderable size, about four miles from the sea, and a foot only above the level of the lake at high water, which is so shallow that boats of only ten or fifteen tons burthen can approach the town. An active traffic in slaves was carried on at this place, particularly after Ardrah was deserted by the French traders.

It has always been the policy of the Lagos people, like those of Bonny, to be themselves the traders and not brokers. They therefore go in their canoes to Ardrah and Badagry, and to the towns situated at the NE. extremity of Cradoo lake, where they purchase slaves, Jaboo cloth, and such articles as are required for domestic consumption.

The necessaries of life are here extremely abundant and cheap, and are brought chiefly from the country or northern margin of Cradoo lake, which communicates with Jaboo, a very fertile kingdom, and inhabited by an agricultural and manufacturing people.

It is these people who send so much cloth to Lagos and Ardrah, which the Portuguese traders from the Brazils purchase for that market, and which is held there in much estimation by the black population; probably, not only on account of its durability, but because it is manufactured in a country which gave many of them, or their parents, birth, as the Portuguese have always carried on an extremely active trade in slaves at Wydah, Ardrah, and Lagos.

The horrid custom of impaling alive a young female, to propitiate the favour of the goddess presiding over the rainy season, that she may fill the horn of plenty, is practised here annually. The immolation of this

victum to superstitious usage takes place soon after the vernal equinox; and along with her are sacrificed sheep and goats which, together with yams, heads of maize, and plantains, are hung on stakes on each side of her. Females destined thus to be destroyed, are brought up for the express purpose in the king's or caboceer's seraglio; and it is said, that their minds have previously been so powerfully wrought upon by the fetiche men, that they proceed to the place of execution with as much cheerfulness as those infatuated Hindoo women who are burnt with their husbands. One was impaled while I was at Lagos, but of course I did not witness the ceremony. I passed by where the lifeless body still remained on the stake a few days afterwards.

Male dogs are banished to the towns opposite to Lagos; for if any are caught there, they are immediately strangled, split, and trimmed like sheep, and hung up at the

door of some great man, where rows of the putrid carcases of their canine brethren are often to be seen. They are fetiche, and intended to countervail the machinations of the evil spirit.

At the eastern extremity of the town, there are a few large trees, which are covered with the heads of malefactors. The skulls are nailed to the trunks and large limbs, and present a very appalling spectacle.

The town swarms with water rats from the lake, which burrow in the ground, and are so audacious that they not unfrequently make their appearance under the dinner-table while the guests remain sitting at it.

The mouth of the river is very shallow and dangerous, and many boats belonging to English vessels, with their crews and cargoes, have been lost in entering it. The French, more prudent, always land their goods from canoes, upon the beach to the eastward of the river's mouth, and

pay the portage to the town. They also warp the fresh water for the use of their vessels through the surf, rather than risk the lives of the seamen by sending them for it in boats into the river.

The population of the town of Lagos may amount to 5,000; but there are two or three populous villages on the north side of Cradoo lake, over which the caboceer of Lagos has jurisdiction. This chief's power is absolute and his disposition tyrannical to excess; his name is Cootry.

When I first paid him a visit, he was holding a levee, and dispensing favours to his courtiers with his own royal hand, which consisted of pieces of the putrid carcase of a cow. Each individual crawled to the foot of the throne, upon his hands and knees (rubbing, occasionally, his forehead in the dust), to receive the princely gift, and, with well-bred politeness, and courtier-like servility, crawled back again to his seat, his posteriors first advancing, like those of a

bear's, when it descends a tree. The room, however, was so intolerably hot, and the stench from the carrion so offensive, that I was compelled to make a precipitate retreat, or forfeit all claim to an acquaintance with royalty, by committing a breach of good manners, which a violent nausea at the stomach warned me was fast approaching; so that I had not an opportunity of witnessing at this time the effect of King Cootry's royal munificence to his courtiers, although I felt the full force of it upon myself.

The entrance leading to the audience-chamber presented a very curious spectacle. It was an oblong room of considerable length, having an opening along the centre of the roof to admit light and air. At one extremity, there was arranged the King's fetiche, which consisted of three elephant's teeth placed in a reclining posture against the wall, with the convex part outwards, and sprinkled with blood. On each side of the apartment, there were tumbled together,

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promiscuously, articles of trade, and costly presents, in a state of dilapidation; namely, rolls of tobacco, boxes of pipes, cases of gin, ankers of brandy, pieces of cloth, of Indian and European manufacture, iron bars, earthenware, a beautiful hand-organ, the bellows of which were burst; two elegant chairs of state, having rich crimson damask covers, all in tatters; a handsome sedan chair, without a bottom; and two expensive sofas, without legs. These, I presume, were placed thus conspicuously, with a view to impress the minds of those persons who were permitted to approach the royal presence, with ideas of the wealth and grandeur of his sable Majesty; and politically, might perhaps be considered as something similar to the pageantry with which it is thought necessary to surround royalty in civilized countries, and which have so captivating and imposing an effect on the unthinking and vulgar.

Cootry, like many of his royal brethren

in Africa, is a receiver of stolen goods; for he does not hesitate to share what his servants purloin: and that servant is his greatest favourite, who can rob his European friends with most address.

It was no secret to the master of a vessel, that his storehouse was clandestinely entered, and robbed of several bags of corn by one of the King's domestics; and he sent a message to the black monarch, that if he caught the thief in the act, he would shoot him, whoever he might be. The opportunity soon occurred, and the man was shot when in the act of taking away upon his head a bag of corn. When the King was informed of the circumstance, his only remark was, that the fellow was a fool, and not a proper man for a thief.

On interrogating Occondo, the King's favourite and linguist, respecting the elephants' teeth, and why they were Cootry's fetiche, his answer was, that the elephant being more sagacious and stronger than any

other animal, he represented best (metaphorically, of course) Cootry's power over his subjects. If the black monarch had been acquainted with heraldry, it would be a reasonable inference to draw, that his fetiche was in reality his coat of arms; and certainly a black African king and an elephant would be much more natural and appropriate than St. George and a dragon.

The policy of this African despot, in ordering the devil to pay his metropolis an occasional visit, is by no means a weak stratagem; especially when we hear of learned divines and holy doctors being called on in civilized countries to subdue the dark spirit, and drive him out of some old bedridden hypochondriac or impostor.

Cootry's devil is no aerial spirit, for he is a devil in reality; an armed man licensed to commit murder. His avocation is to run through the different avenues of the town, disguised in a mask, and to destroy all who may chance to fall in his way; but

as notice is given by the Gong Gong, or bellman, of his intended nocturnal visit, it is but seldom any person loses his life. Europeans receive notice, and are requested not to leave their houses on the evening of his appearance, as the devil in Lagos is no respecter of persons. The fellow who performs the part comes from one of the villages on the opposite side of the lake; and the inhabitants of Lagos are certainly much alarmed at his visits, and inquire from their neighbours, the following morning, in whispers, how they fared during the night.

Besides the public warning usually given on such occasions, the devil always makes his appearance at full moon; so that if the King should be out raking, he may not mistake his royal master for a subject, although it would be a favourable opportunity to rid the people of a tyrant.

Cradoo Lake is a fine piece of water, and of great extent; but the country surrounding it being very low, and but little ele-

vated above its surface, renders it tame and uninteresting. In the midst of mountain scenery, it would rank in size, and perhaps in beauty, among lakes of the first class. The colour of its water during the wet season, is that of clay, but when dry weather prevails, it is deeply tinged with decomposed vegetable matter. Fish is very abundant in it, particularly mullet, of a large size and fine flavour; but the atmosphere so quickly dècomposes animal matter after life has become extinct, that in four hours after fish has been taken from the lake, it becomes putrid; so that to render it available, as food for Europeans, it must be taken very near the hour of dinner. As for the Africans, they are as great epicures in fish, as our gourmands are in game; for the nearer it attains the true epicurean flavour in smell, taste, and consistency (which is that of well digested food), the more suitable it is to their palates.

During the rainy season, hippopotami

frequent some marshy islands nearly opposite to Lagos; but they are seldom, if ever, taken by the natives, although the teeth of these animals are sometimes offered for sale, but which are brought from the towns of Cradoo and Kosi, on the north-east margin of the lake. Alligators are numerous, and infest the ponds from which water is taken for the use of the shipping. A very large one, which appeared as the monarch of the pond, the sailors called Old Tom, and which some of my men employed in the watering boat determined to destroy. They accordingly obtained a three pounder, and placed it so as to point immediately to the bank on which Old Tom was in the constant practice of basking in the sun. This they loaded with a heavy charge of grape shot, and, watching a proper opportunity, discharged it, and killed the alligator, which had really become a source of terror to some of the boats' crews. It measured thirty feet. Its skin, which had been taken

off and stuffed, the rats devoured on board the ship.

Cowries are the medium of exchange and calculations are made in ounces and arkies, as on the Gold Coast; 16,000 cowries make an ounce, being the same mode of calculation as that practised at Ardrah, Wydah, and Popo.

The Jaboos inhabit a country situated between Hio and Benin, are a fine looking people, and always seem as if they came from a land of plenty, being stout, healthy, and full of vigour. They are a very industrious people, and manufacture for sale an immense number of common Guinea cloths: besides raising cattle, sheep, poultry, corn, and calavancies, with which they supply their neighbours.

CHAPTER III.

Benin—Gatto creek—The capital of Benin; interview with the king; dancing women; customs of the natives; population; affinity to the Heebos; their national mark—The Creek, or Jo people: salt—New Town—Warre; journey there; manufactures; population; audience with the king, his dress; relics of catholicism; a peep into the king's seraglio; houses—Bonny; great market for slaves—Heeboos; number exported; fairs where they are sold; their character—King Pepple—New Calabar—Fetiche, or Jew Jeu—John Africa—Old Calabar—Camaroons—Gaboon—Climate—Smokes—The island of Fernandipo—Princes—St. Thomas—Annabona—Majumba; singular appearance of the natives—King Cole—Malemba; the town; comparative salubrity of its climate: local advantages for colonizing—Natives; their character.

THE country called BENIN is of considerable extent, and situated principally to the north and west of the river Formosa, from which a wide and deep creek branches, that leads

to a town called Gatto, where vessels trading with Benin have their factories. Craft of the burthen of sixty tons can navigate this creek to within four or five miles of the town, which is distant from the Formosas thirty-five miles; and the first dry land which appears after entering that river is near Gatto, the intermediate country being a morass covered with an impenetrable forest.

It is the practice here for masters of vessels to pay the king a visit soon after their arrival; and such a ceremony is seldom allowed to be dispensed with, as on these occasions the black monarch receives a handsome present, consisting of a piece of silk damask, a few yards of scarlet cloth, and some strings of coral. Soon after my arrival, therefore, and while my health yet permitted it, I got into my hammock, and at the end of the second day, I arrived at the capital of Benin.

The course of the road from Gatto to the

capital is about NE. by N. and the road passes over a country nearly level, intersected with deep woods and swamps; the distance I estimated to be about forty miles.

The face of the country surrounding Benin bears much the same character as that of Ardrah and Grewhe, except that it is more thickly wooded. The town is large and populous, and contains probably 15,000 inhabitants; it is built very irregularly, the houses being placed without any regard to order, and detached; consequently occupying a large space of ground.

The king of Benin is fetiche, and the principal object of adoration in his dominions. He occupies a higher post here than the pope does in catholic Europe; for he is not only God's vicegerent upon earth, but a god himself, whose subjects both obey and adore him as such, although I believe their adoration to arise rather from fear than love; as cases of heresy are tried before a much more summary, though a more mer-

ciful, tribunal than the inquisition, that abominable engine of catholic despotism. For delinquency, if proved in the former instance, is punished promptly by the delinquent receiving the *coup de tete*, which terminates instantly both his life and sufferings; whereas the inquisitions of the catholic states of civilised Europe, by a refinement in cruelty, protract the sufferings of the unfortunate victims who may have fallen under their displeasure, by immuring them for years in loathsome dungeons; then applying to their bodies the rack, to extort from them a recantation of their heresies; and afterwards by cutting their throats, as their progenitors, the Spaniards, did the unfortunate natives of Hispaniola and Cuba immediately after baptism, to prevent them from relapsing into apostasy.

King Bowarré, who is now about forty-five years of age, although he is supposed by his poor deluded subjects to have the attributes of a god (it being a very heinous

crime for any of them to entertain an opinion that he, like other mortals, requires either food or sleep), knew very well that white men, with all their ingenuity, required both; he therefore ordered his nephew's house to be prepared for my accommodation, and sent me a sheep, some fowls, yams and pumpkins.

The day following my arrival, I had the honour of an interview with him; he received me with much politeness, particularly after the fine flashy piece of red silk damask, which I had brought with me as a present for him, had been unfolded. The conversation was carried on with the aid of the king's trader, who resides at Gatto, and who had accompanied me from thence to act as my linguist. Trade was the principal, indeed the only subject discussed; for king Bowarre, although he is both a god and a king, trades, nevertheless, in slaves and ivory.

The Benin people, like those of Ardrah

and Lagos, are great consumers of Brazil tobacco, not any vessels loaded with which had for some time arrived from the Brazils. This was a subject of much conversation, and of deep regret on the part of the king.

The audience lasted about one hour; he then presented me with two or three country cloths, and a small piece of ivory, when I made my bow and took my leave of him.

There are in Benin a number of itinerant dancing-women, who were sent to amuse me, and whose performance before the house constantly attracted a crowd of persons of both sexes, who conducted themselves with great decorum during the exhibition. The ladies danced in the fandango style, perhaps not quite so modestly as our fashionable belles, although more in character, by holding in their hands excellent substitutes for castanets, with which they kept time admirably. These consisted of small hollow gourds, over which are spread nets having small pease strung on the sides of the

meshes. Holes at the top received the fore-fingers of their right hands, with which the gourds were shaken, and occasionally struck against the palms of their left hands, beating responses to the tunes sung by the dancers.

The king and his principal courtiers are ostentatious in their dress, wearing damask, taffity, and cuttanee, after the country fashion. Coral is a very favourite ornament in the royal seraglio, which is always well filled; and the women, like those of the Heebo nation, wear a profusion of beads, if they can by any means obtain them.

Human sacrifices are not so frequent here as in some parts of Africa; yet besides those immolated on the death of great men, three or four are annually sacrificed at the mouth of the river, as votive offerings to the sea, to direct vessels to bend their course to this horrid climate.

The number of slaves obtained at Benin was at one period very considerable; but the extreme unhealthiness of the country was, I apprehend, the chief cause why the

English trade at this place declined. The medium of exchange is salt, and calculations are made in pawns, one of which is equal to a bar in Bonny, or 2*s.* 6*d.* sterling.

The land about the town of Benin is fertile, although but little of it is cultivated. Sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, and yams, are plentiful and cheap. There is here also a breed of small cattle.

What country, or of what description, or inhabited by what nation, bounds the north of that inhabited by the Heebos, I could never obtain any satisfactory account; but it is certain, that there are not any slaves sold at Bonny, that pass from the interior through it. The kingdom of Benin may be called its western boundary, although its inhabitants and their language bear a striking affinity to the Heebos. The colour of their skins is somewhat darker; though much lighter than the Jaboos or Hios.

The national mark is on each temple, and three very extensive scars on the abdomen above the umbilical chord.

The CREEK, or Jo people, are a predatory race, and frequently attack boats bound to Gatto; and when weakly manned, they have been known to murder the crew, plunder their cargoes, and burn the boats. They had once the audacity to attempt to surprise in the night a brig under my command, which I had taken to the mouth of the river, for the purpose of allowing the crew to have the advantage of breathing a better atmosphere, hoping, by that means, to counteract the bad effects of the climate, which had begun to make serious inroads on their health. They had acquired information of the ineffective state of the crew, and meant to hazard the experiment of quietly boarding us in the night with four canoes full of people; but as we thought some attempt of the kind might be made, we were prepared to receive them, and on firing a few shots they retreated. They, however, made a second attempt the following night with an increased force, but when

the musket balls began to whiz about their ears, they all laid down on the bottom of their canoes, and allowed themselves to be drifted away in them by the tide; for they had the sagacity to avail themselves of a strong flood, and to pull up against it in the wake of the vessel, in order to elude observation, and to secure a retreat in case of necessity.

On the west head of the river, as well as on the opposite shore, a number of huts have been erected, where salt is made from sea water. At full tide, the sea approaches very near to these huts, at which time the natives fill the vessels (composed chiefly of earthenware of native manufacture) with salt water, and evaporate it by fire. Some of the salt made in this way is very good, but a large portion of it is of a bad colour, and sandy.

NEW TOWN is placed about eighteen miles from the mouth of the river, and is in the territory and under the jurisdiction of the

king of Warré, and Wacoo the captain of the river derives his power and consequence from being placed there to receive the king's duties, which are very moderate, from vessels visiting the Formosas for the purpose of trade. It being a mere trading station, the population is inconsiderable, and the houses wretched hovels built on the north point of Warré creek, which is so swampy that the inhabitants are under the necessity of placing old canoes with their bottoms upwards, in order to be enabled to pass upon them, from house to house, otherwise they would sink knee deep in mud.

The river, in consequence of its bed and margin being composed of mud, has scarcely any variety of fish in it, and what the natives obtain, are caught in holes amongst the roots of the mangrove trees, and are a kind of small eel seldom exceeding six inches in length and an inch and half in diameter; these with yams form the chief part of their food. The yams are brought from a

considerable distance, as there is not any cultivated land within many miles of New Town.

Being desirous of paying the king of Warré a visit, I left my vessel early in the morning, in the month of February, having Wacoo as my guide and protector. As the journey to the capital would occupy two days and one night, we took every thing requisite to render ourselves comfortable during the time we should be in the canoe which conveyed us, and which had over it an awning made of mats, that protected us from the intensity of the rays of the sun, and the heavy dews of the night. Our canoe proceeded at about the rate of four miles an hour, taking an east course along the creeks, some of them both wide and deep, and others barely of sufficient magnitude to allow our small bark to navigate them.

During our passage to Warré, we crossed two rivers, which join the sea to the north-

ward of Cape Formosa; and we only saw two small villages on the whole extent of the road to that town.

This country is covered with an impenetrable forest, which grows upon land that seems composed of alluvion; and even in the middle of the dry season, water covers a large portion of its surface nearly to the depth of a foot.

We arrived at WARRE' about five o'clock the following day. This town is situated on a beautiful island, about five miles in circumference, and which might have fallen from the clouds in the midst of a desert; for it is a little elevated above the surrounding country before described, is well cultivated, and has much the appearance of an extensive park.

The sub-stratum of the island is composed of a tenacious red clay, from which the inhabitants manufacture jars for holding water, and utensils of various forms for domestic purposes. These are baked in ovens, con-

structed of wood, placed in the open air, and the oven is consumed while the pots are baking. From the great quantity we saw manufactured, earthenware must constitute here a considerable article of trade.

Much trade is carried on here with the natives of Bonny and New Calabar, who come in their canoes for that purpose; and the slaves obtained by them are principally composed of the natives of Allakoo, who are called at Bonny the brass country negroes, from the circumstance of the neptunes, or large brass pans, taken from Europe to Bonny, being requisite for this particular trade. These neptunes are used, during the dry season, by the Creek and surrounding country people, for the purpose of evaporating sea-water to obtain its salt, which is here the medium of exchange, and a great trade is carried on in this article with the interior country. These people assemble at the mouths of the river, where they construct huts and carry on their manufacture.

The capital of Warré is divided into two towns, distant from each other half a mile. The most populous one is that in which the king resides, and the combined population amounts probably to 5,000 souls.

We had lodgings prepared for us at the house of our guide's father, and soon after our arrival, refreshments were sent us by the king, accompanied by a message, that he would be glad to see us the following day. We accordingly waited on him (our guide acting as linguist), and arrived at his house about mid-day. After passing through five or six apartments of various forms and sizes, we were ushered into the audience chamber, where we found his sable majesty fully prepared for the occasion, and seated on a low stool, placed on a kind of platform, raised about eighteen inches above the floor. A boy was holding a pink silk umbrella over his head, and another was brushing away flies with an elephant's tail. To our extreme surprise, we found the king rigged

out in the European style, and wanting nothing to complete the dress but a shirt and a neckcloth.

The king whose name is Otoo, appeared about sixty years of age, his countenance mild and intelligent, and his person of the middle size, inclined to corpulency. He had on a white satin waistcoat trimmed with silver lace, a silk purple coat much embroidered, black satin small-clothes with knee buckles, coarse thread stockings, shoes and buckles, and a large black hat trimmed round the edge with red feathers; all of which appeared to us of Portuguese fabric, except the coat and waistcoat, which, there is little doubt, had, at a former period, been worn by some noble peer or knight at the court of St. James's.

Our audience continued about an hour, when king Otoo dismissed us with much courtesy, and requested that while we remained at Warré we would visit him daily.

On entering the first apartment of the

palace, we were much surprised to see, placed on a rude kind of table, several emblems of the catholic religion, consisting of crucifixes, mutilated saints, and other trumpery. Some of these articles were manufactured of brass, and others of wood. On inquiring how they came into their present situation, we were informed that several black Portuguese missionaries had been at Warré, many years since, endeavouring to convert the natives into Christians; and the building in which they performed their mysteries, we found still standing.

A large wooden cross, which had withstood the tooth of time, was remaining in a very perfect state, in one of the angles formed by two roads intersecting each other. We could not learn that the Portuguese had been successful in making proselytes; indeed, king Otoo's subjects appeared to trouble themselves very little about religion of any kind.

The government although monarchical, appeared to us mild; and, from the apparent equality and freedom that existed among the natives generally, to partake more of the republican form than the monarchical. Polygamy is common here, as in other parts of Africa; and the number of wives which the black monarch had exceeded sixty; for such I judged to be the amount, as one day in my rambles, I inadvertently peeped into the royal seraglio. This building is at some distance from the king's residence, and has the form of a quadrangle with a large open area, in the centre; the doors and windows of the various apartments which compose the sides opening into it. The external walls are comparatively high, and have but one opening. Hearing the noise of many voices, and the door standing invitingly open, I walked in, when loud screams from a vast number of women and children assailed my ears. As I perceived that my presence very much alarmed them,

I did not advance far beyond the threshold of the door, where I first entered, but remained stationary a few minutes, in order to observe what their various employments were; and here indeed were queens actively engaged in all the duties and embellishments of domestic life, from the toilette to the washing tub. And as we often hear of king's being called (allegorically) the fathers of their people, the extraordinary fact seemed to be verified in old king Otoo's person; as, from the number of young children in this establishment, it would be no great stretch of the imagination to fancy the population of Warré to have been principally of his own creation.

When I called on the king the day following this adventure, he with much good humour informed me that he had heard of it; but as I was a stranger, and unacquainted with their customs, he would excuse the mistake; but added, by way of warning, perhaps, to some of his courtiers

who were present, that had any of his subjects been guilty of such a trespass, the consequences to them would have been much more serious.

The houses are built of clay baked in the sun, and are cemented together by the same material in a liquid state; and there is a degree of neatness and uniformity in their construction, which pleased me. Many of them have projecting roofs in front, which are supported from the ground by wooden pillars, and form piazzas which allow their inhabitants to enjoy the air without being exposed to the sun or rain. The natives are very black, and without any national mark, and resemble the Fantees in their persons and manners.

I observed great quantities of yams brought here in canoes: it is probable, therefore, that the produce of the island is not adequate to the support of its inhabitants.

The town of BONNY is placed on the left

bank of a river, about five miles from the sea. It is built on a morass (in fact, the surrounding country is little else), having the river on the west, and a creek on the north, which leads to Little Bonny, a branch of which also communicates with the river Adony.

This place is the wholesale market for slaves, as not fewer than 20,000 are annually sold here; 16,000 of whom are natives of one nation, called Heebo, so that this single nation has not exported a less number of its people, during the last twenty years, than 320,000; and those of the same nation sold at New and Old Calabar, probably amounted in the same period of time to 50,000 more, making an aggregate amount of 370,000 Heebos. The remaining part of the above 20,000 is composed of the natives of the brass country, called Allakoos, and also of Ibbibbys or Quaws.

Fairs, where the slaves of the Heebo nation are obtained, are held every five or

six weeks at several villages, which are situated on the banks of the rivers and creeks in the interior, and to which the traders of Bonny resort to purchase them.

The preparation necessary for going to these fairs generally occupies the Bonny people some days. Large canoes, capable of carrying 120 persons, are launched and stored for the voyage. The traders augment the quantity of their merchandize, by obtaining from their friends, the captains of the slave ships, a considerable quantity of goods on credit, according to the extent of business they are in the habit of transacting. Evening is the period chosen for the time of departure, when they proceed in a body, accompanied by the noise of drums, horns, and gongs. At the expiration of the sixth day, they generally return, bringing with them 1,500 or 2,000 slaves, who are sold to Europeans the evening after their arrival, and taken on board the ships.

The Heebos, to judge by the immense

number annually sent into slavery, inhabit a country of great extent, and extremely populous, the southern boundary of which may be comprised between Cape Formosa and Old Calabar; and it is very probable that the towns at the mouths of the rivers along the coast, including New Calabar and Bonny, were peopled originally from the Heebo country: in fact, Amacree, the King of New Calabar, and Pepple, King of Bonny, are both of Heebo descent, as well as many of the principal traders at both these places.

These towns were probably first built and occupied for the purpose of obtaining salt by the evaporation of sea-water; because the country, from the sea-board to fifty miles into the interior of it, is a vast morass, heavily timbered, and unfit, without excessive labour, to produce sufficient food, but for a very scanty population; and as the trade in slaves increased, these towns, particularly Bonny, grew into importance.

The language, also, spoken at these places varies but little from that spoken by the Heebos, which proves a common origin.

The country inhabited by a nation called Ibbibby, or Quaw (the Mocoes of the West Indies) bounds it on the east. To this nation the Heebos express a strong aversion, and call them cannibals. They certainly have a ferocious aspect, and their appearance and disposition would cause a person to suppose, that in their own country they lead a wild, predatory life. Whenever insurrection has taken place on board of a slave ship at Bonny, they have always been found to be the ringleaders, and often the only slaves concerned in it, the Heebos remaining passive spectators. Contrary to the latter, they have very black skins, and their teeth filed so as to resemble those of a saw. The females are equally mischievous and ferocious as the men.

The Heebos, in their persons, are tall and well formed, many of the women sym-

metrically so; and may be distinguished from the other tribes of Africans by their skins having generally a yellow, bilious cast, although varying, in some instances, to a deep black. Their dispositions are naturally timid and desponding, and their despair on being sent on board of a ship is often such, that they use every stratagem to effect the commission of suicide, and which they would often accomplish, unless narrowly watched: they, however, by mild treatment, soon become reconciled to their floating prisons.

A class of Heebos, called Breeché, and whom many have very erroneously considered to be a distinct nation, masters of slave-ships have always had a strong aversion to purchase; because the impression made on their minds, by their degraded situation, was rendered more galling and permanent from the exalted rank which they occupied in their own country, and which was thought to have a very unfavourable influence on

their shipmates and countrymen in misfortune.

Breechié, in the Heebo language, signifies gentleman, or the eldest son of one, and who is not allowed to perform in his own country any menial office. He inherits, at his father's death, all his slaves, and has the absolute controul over the wives and children which he has left behind him. Before attaining the age of manhood, his forehead is scarified, and the skin brought down from the hair to the eye-brows, so as to form a line of indurated skin from one temple to the other. This peculiar mark is distinctive of his rank, the ordinary mark of the Heebo being formed by numerous perpendicular incisions on each temple, as if the operation of cupping had been often performed.

Combined with timid dispositions, these people have delicate constitutions, on which disease acts powerfully. Dysentery, to which they seem peculiarly liable, and which is

frequently epidemic, makes dreadful havoc among them when they are assailed by it. They are also very subject to purulent ophthalmia, having all the peculiarities and character of the Egyptian disease of the same name.

It is expected, that every vessel, on her arrival, will fire a salute the instant the anchor is let go, as a compliment to the black monarch, who soon afterwards makes his appearance in a large canoe, at which time all those natives who happen to be along side of the vessel are compelled to proceed in their canoes to a respectful distance, and make way for his Majesty's barge. After a few compliments to the captain, he usually enquires after brother George (meaning the king of England), and hopes he and his family are well. He is not pleased unless he is regaled with the best the ship affords; and, on returning to his canoe, expects to find a little store of sugar, tea, butter, white biscuit, and wine. Presents of greater

value and bulk, are sent to him in the ship's boat. His power is absolute; and the surrounding country, to a considerable distance, is subject to his dominion. His war canoes are capable of carrying one hundred and forty persons each, and have often a gun of large calibre mounted on the bow. He has destroyed the town of New Calabar twice, and boasts of having eaten part of the heart of its king. His Jew Jew, or fetiche house, is ornamented with rows of the skulls of captives taken in battle.

New Calabar was formerly an independent state, and a number of vessels obtained at it cargoes of slaves: but at this time, the inhabitants are compelled to take their merchandize to Bonny for sale, yet are not permitted to have any communication whatever with the shipping.

The houses in Bonny are wretched habitations, being composed of stakes driven into the ground, which are wattled and plaistered, and having four or five dark and

dirty apartments in them. But the natives are not remarkable either for the cleanliness of their houses or persons: in fact, they are a dirty race, as compared with those of the Gold Coast.

The iguana is the Bonnians' fetiche, or Jew Jew; and these reptiles may be seen crawling about the town, where they are caressed and fed by the natives; and he, into whose house one of them enters, thinks himself most fortunate. One day, when thirty or forty canoes surrounded the vessel, an iguana was discovered near the middle of the river, proceeding to Peter's side, which is opposite to Bonny, when all the canoes immediately pushed off; and great was the contention among them, as to who should reach the reptile first, and ferry it to the spot, to which it seemed to be bending its course. When they returned, I joked with them, and stated my belief that their hurry proceeded not so much with a view to help the iguana quickly over the river,

as to prevent the Calabar Jew Jew (the shark) from catching it: but they said the shark dare not touch it. Had there not, however, been at the time a strong tide running when the sharks usually remain at the bottom, the Calabar deity would have swallowed at a mouthful the Bonnians' object of adoration. The sharks in this river are enormously large; and so numerous that scarcely any living thing that falls overboard escape them, however promptly assistance may be rendered:—and I have witnessed some distressing scenes caused by them. This voracious fish is, as I have before remarked, the Calabarians' Jew Jew; and a great number of them frequent the creek before the town, where they are regularly fed. A criminal is compelled to swim over the creek, which is a species of ordeal; and a more certain means of destroying him could scarcely be devised, yet giving him something like a chance for his life, for not one in twenty

escape: those who do are pronounced innocent.

At the entrance of these rivers (Bonny and Calabar), salt is made from sea-water, and of a good quality; and tobacco is cultivated, and brought from the interior for sale. Much of its pungency and flavour is lost, by being too highly dried, apparently by fire. It is spun in lengths, and resembles in thickness that which is manufactured in the Brazils. Yams are fine and abundant; but poultry and goats (the only stock to be had here) are scarce and dear. Tumbo, the native name for palm wine, is very plentiful during the dry season; and the natives take great delight in drinking it in large libations from ox horns, of as great dimensions as they can obtain from Europe.

Human sacrifices are common. When a chief dies, many of his wives are destroyed, and interred with him.

Some of the traders have become ex-

tremely opulent in consequence of the great extent to which the trade in slaves has been carried on by them, and are in possession of European articles to a considerable amount, especially unwrought iron and copper. There is so large a mass of the former accumulated in King Pepple's house, that it is supposed, by its continually imcreasing quantity, to be buried as many feet under the ground as above it; viz. six or eight feet.

A trader here, named John Africa, and who has been several voyages to England, is endowed with an extraordinary memory. I have known him to have open running accounts with fourteen or fifteen vessels at the same time, wherein the debit sides exhibited long lists of various articles received by him at different periods on credit; yet, he could tell to a bunch of beads the exact state of each account when he came to settle it, although he could neither read nor

write. He possesses a natural talent for irony, which the following anecdote will show:—

A considerable part of the town was destroyed by fire, on which occasion many of the traders lost much property, one of whom was John Africa. The captains of the vessels then in the river went on shore to condole with them on their loss, and to offer them such assistance as they had the power of granting. On landing, they found the principal men assembled together, and joined them. Soon afterwards, John Africa commenced an harangue, and stated the great loss he with others had sustained by the fire, and, directing his discourse to one of the captains in particular, said, "Me tank you too much: you be proper man for dis country. Me lose all ting, no more two puncheon brandy me get you ship. Him no burn; fire no make him burn. Bonny man tank you enough. You brandy won't burn; too much water live dere:" mean-

ing that there was more water than brandy in the puncheons. These satirical remarks were delivered by him in so dry and sarcastic a manner, and with so much gravity of countenance, that the brandy-and-water captain became the laughing-stock of the company, and was so mortified, that he made a precipitate retreat, vowing vengeance against the black cynic, for holding him up to ridicule.

I once observed this African bestow a valuable present on a captain, in so delicate a manner, as would have done honour to an European of refined sentiment. The captain was a great favourite of his; and the ship which he commanded, being on the point of sailing, he went on board to take leave of him. Having done so, and got into his canoe, he dropped astern under the cabin port, and put through it, into the cabin, three elephant's teeth, weighing at least forty pounds each: he then called out to the captain, "Da someting for buy

your woman cloth," (meaning his wife in England); and paddled away as fast as possible.

The town, off which the ships anchor in Old Calabar river, is called DUKE'S TOWN, and is about fifty miles from the sea. The town where the King resides, which is called King's Town, is a few miles to the north-east of the former.

The people of Old Calabar have, for a long period, dealt in the productions of the soil, as also in slaves; and have exported, annually, seven or eight hundred tons of palm oil, besides barwood. It is probable, that their attention was first directed to the manufacture of palm oil, in large quantities, in consequence of Bonny becoming the great slave market, and monopolizing the trade in slaves, which Old Calabar carried on to a considerable extent before it; but which the chiefs of Old Calabar lost, by exacting from the vessels trading, exorbitant duties or customs.

Many of the natives write English; an art first acquired by some of the traders' sons, who had visited England, and which they have had the sagacity to retain up to the present period. They have established schools and schoolmasters, for the purpose of instructing in this art the youths belonging to families of consequence.

An extensive trade in slaves has been carried on at Camaroons, where also a larger quantity of ivory is procured, and of a superior quality to that of any other port in Africa. A considerable proportion of the negroes, obtained both here and at Gaboon, are a miserable race of beings, and held in but little estimation in the West Indies. They appear to be the descending link in the great animal chain, which connects man with the ourang outang. Their foreheads are short, oval, and receding; eyes close together; noses scarcely above the level of the cheeks; mouths wide, and projecting; receding chins; hair, thinly

sown, soft and woolly; narrow chests, long bodies, abdomens protuberant, short lower extremities, and long arms; legs without calves and long feet. They have poor constitutions, and, when assailed by disease, generally sink under it.

At both these places palm oil is an article of trade; and at Gaboon some ivory is also procured, and bar wood in abundance, and of good quality.

Along the line of coast from Benin to Gaboon, the wet season is of much longer duration and more intense than in the Gold Coast; and the storms of thunder and lightning most terrific. One, that occurred when I was there, will probably never be forgotten by any of those who witnessed it, during their lives.

At midnight, in the month of October, a dark dense cloud came from the north-west, and appeared to become stationary over the ships (sixteen in number), in Bonny river. There was scarcely a breath

of wind stirring, and a few large drops of rain fell at intervals. In this cloud, as in a focus, there appeared to have been collected all the electric matter which the heavens contained. Streams of liquid fire continued to pour down from every part of it to the earth for an hour and a half; and the noise, which the thunder made at the commencement of every clap, and which was simultaneous with the lightning, was like the whizzing of large shot and shells passing over the vessel, followed by noises, as if ten thousand cart loads of timber and stones had been thrown down. What rendered our situation very dangerous, was, having one hundred and twenty barrels of gun-powder in the between decks. Fortunately no accident happened to any of the shipping.

During the months of January, and February, there occur here what the natives call smokes*, from the atmosphere being

* The natives apply the English word smoke (arising from fire) to a dense fog, in their conversation with Eu-

rendered so extremely thick, that objects cannot be seen at the distance of a hundred yards, except when the sun is near the meridian, when it clears away a little. These smokes are accompanied by a moderate north-east wind, which frequently continues six weeks, and produces on plants the same effect as the harmattan, by withering their leaves; and precisely as the blast, or northwind, does on the cotton plant and the other vegetable productions of Guyana. The thermometer generally sinks ten degrees, and the natives feel the change so sensibly, that they wrap their bodies up in cloth very closely, and have fires constantly in their houses. Their skins have at this time a white scurf upon it, and this season is extremely obnoxious to them. The rigging of a vessel acquires hardness, and rattles as

ropeans, as they have not in their own language, any word which expresses a fog, or hazy atmosphere, except that which they use for smoke arising from fire.

if it were frozen, from the peculiar astringency, which the air at this time seems to possess.

The north-east end of the island of FERNANDIPO bears south-west from the high land of Camaroons, distance ten leagues.

This island has considerable elevation, and several of the hills, which have conical forms, are probably of volcanic origin. They rise apparently 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and are covered with wood to their summits. This high land is often visible from Bonny Bar, a distance of twenty leagues.

It has been peopled from the neighbouring continent by malefactors and run-away slaves, who are determined to sell their liberty dearly, and any persons attempting to deprive them of it will have cause to regret their temerity.

The Spaniards, or Portuguese, had once a footing upon it, but were compelled to abandon it. It is very fruitful, yielding, on the low lands, great abundance of yams, of

a very fine quality. Hogs, goats, and poultry, are also very plentiful and cheap. No person ought to land upon it without being protected by a powerful escort, well armed; and even then it will be necessary to be constantly on his guard.

The island of PRINCES bears SW. ½ W. from Fernandipo, distance twenty-eight leagues, and belongs to the crown of Portugal. It has considerable elevation, and the hills are conical, and wooded to their summits. The harbour, which is on the east side of the island, is excellent, partially exposed to the violence of the tornadoes; but as the anchoring-ground is composed of a stiff tenacious clay, and the mouth of the harbour narrow, which prevents much sea setting into it, it rarely occurs that any accident happens to the shipping. Two small redoubts defend the entrance, and are garrisoned by a black militia.

The natives are generally black, and the

few coloured people that are natives, are of a mixed race; the former are principally slaves, and speak a *patois* language, partly Portuguese and partly African.

There are a few schooners of fifty or sixty tons' burthen, which trade with the neighbouring continent for slaves and ivory.

The island is thickly wooded, and, where cultivated, yields abundance of calavancies and manioc, from the latter of which is manufactured farina. In calavancies and farina the natives deal largely with those vessels that call for refreshments. The tide rises and falls four feet, and the climate is very unhealthy. The water procured here is very good, and conveniently situated for getting on board.

The island of St. Thomas is of considerable extent and great fertility; it bears south-west from the island of Princes, distance twenty-seven leagues.

The hills of this island are high, conical,

and covered with wood; the face of the low country, at the north-east end, is undulating, and adorned with luxuriant verdure, and exhibits many fine plantations of the sweet casàvi and calavancies, also groves of cocoa-nut and plantain. St. Thomas is sometimes visited by slave-ships requiring refreshments and water; but, as tornadoes blow here with unusual violence, and the bay where vessels anchor is open and entirely exposed to their violence, they in general call at Princes island in preference, particularly during the tornado season.

The town of Chaves, at the bottom of the bay is the usual place where the governor-in-chief resides, and there is a tolerable fortification to defend it, garrisoned by a motley militia. The population is chiefly black, the major part of whom are slaves.

The island of ANNABONA is distant from from St. Thomas thirty-two leagues, bearing south-west southerly. It is a beautiful little island, and inhabited wholly by blacks,

who call themselves subjects of the crown of Portugal.

There is an open bay on the north-east side where vessels may anchor in twenty-five fathoms water, about a quarter of a mile from the shore. Vessels from the bight of Benin call here sometimes, and obtain a few goats, poultry, and cocoa-nuts. Water is difficult to get, in consequence of the heavy surf, and that in the vicinity of the bay is impregnated with saline matter, which renders it unwholesome.

The island bears the form of a cone, round the base of which there is thrown out towards the sea-shore, a narrow margin, about a quarter of a mile in breadth, which is covered with groves of cocoa-nut and plantain: the cone itself is beautifully wooded to the summit.

The natives appear simple and inoffensive, and obtain their subsistence chiefly from the sea. Among them are to be observed many dreadful cases of lues, for the

cure of which they do not seem to be in the possession of any specific.

The town is prettily situated on the margin of the bay, in a grove of cocoa-nut trees, and contains probably three or four hundred inhabitants.

MAJUMBA, on the coast of Angola, lies in latitude 8° 35′ south, and longitude 11° 20″ east of the meridian of Greenwich. The anchorage is a fine sandy bay, about two miles deep, and open to the westward.

There is a small river which runs parallel to the beach on the south side of the bay, and which joins the sea at its eastern extremity.

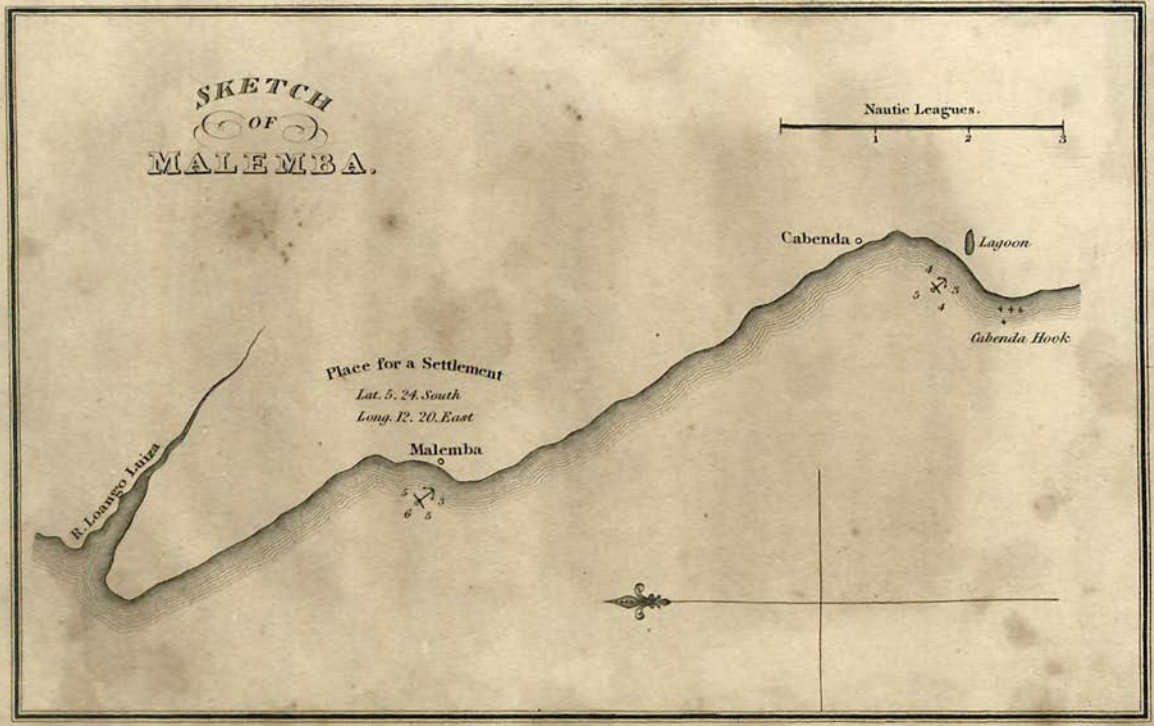
We anchored at this place early in October, when the rains had just commenced, and, on landing, we were not a little surprised and amused at the grotesque figures which many of the natives made, who had on their heads large wigs, made apparently of the bristles of pigs, not a hair of which had a curve in it, and at the extremity of

each stood a dew-drop, for it was a mizzling rain, with now and then a dash of sunshine. At this time the wigs made a very brilliant appearance; they were of all colours, although red and white were the predominant ones, which, contrasted with the black visages and naked bodies of the wearers, gave them a most ludicrous appearance; they had been purposely made and carried to Majumba on speculation, by a Captain Higgin, of London, an eccentric character.

The articles of trade here consist principally of red-wood and ivory, both of which are considered of a superior quality.

The town is very small, and may contain a population of one thousand inhabitants. It is built on the south side of the river, which is very narrow and shallow, and abounds in mullet and shell-fish, which, with yams, constitute the chief food of the natives.

The first time we paid a visit to king Cole, the day was wet, and we found the



Published by G & W.B. Whittaker April 1823.

J.Walker Sculpt.

sable monarch, with half-a-dozen of his courtiers, in a wigwam, seated round a fire made of green wood, which filled the palace with so pungent a smoke, that we were glad to escape from the kingly residence without much ceremony.

The country is very low, and thickly wooded, and the inhabitants seem very poor.

That part of Africa lying between the river Loanga Luiza and Cabenda Hook, comprises an extent of sea-coast of nine leagues. Malemba is in the centre, and lies in latitude 5° 24′ south, and 12° 20′ east of the meridian of Greenwich, and may be justly considered as the Montpelier of western Africa.

The trading town of MALEMBA, which is under the dominion of a chenoo or chief, residing in a town about twenty miles from the sea, called Chingelé, is built near the margin of a cliff, that rises abruptly from the sea-shore to an elevation of one hundred

feet, and is entirely composed of a dusky red argillaceous earth.

On gaining the summit of this cliff, an extensive and beautiful plain presents itself, as far as the sight can reach to the east and south. To the north the country is broken with the windings of the Loanga Luiza river, the margins of which are finely wooded. The plain is covered with a luxuriant grass, and clumps of trees are scattered upon its surface, having the appearance of being planted by the hand of man, to afford him shelter from the sun and rain, and to adorn the landscape.

The climate of Malemba, when compared with that of any other part of Africa which I have visited, is very salubrious, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere and soil, and the absence of those deep forests so common in other districts. Masters of vessels, and their crews, trading here, have, in consequence, almost uniformly enjoyed good health.

If salubrity of climate, then, were the only advantage which Malemba possessed over other parts of Africa, between the rivers Senegal and Congo, it would well deserve the consideration of his Majesty's government, in the event of contemplating the establishment of another colony, besides that of Sierra Leone, of the negroes captured in vessels trading for slaves contrary to law; whether their views might not be advantageously directed hither, as a place where the experiment would be more likely to be attended with success than on the Gold Coast; because it would be here that those Europeans, whose province it would be to watch over an infant colony so composed, would enjoy that state of health so necessary to enable them to superintend, and direct personally, and with proper effect, the physical and moral energies of those Africans committed to their care.

The Gold Coast is nearly, if not quite, as unhealthy as Sierra Leone; and if the gen-

tlemen sent out by the African committee to Cape Coast Castle, were lodged, on their first arrival from Europe, one mile in the interior of the country, instead of within the walls of that castle, the fact would too soon be fatally verified.

The superior healthiness of the castle itself may be accounted for, by its southern rampart wall being built on a ledge of rocks which project a little way into the sea, and against which rocks the sea beats with great violence, thereby creating at all times a cool and refreshing current of air within the castle. The sea breeze also blows directly into it, pure as the element over which it wings its course; and, at some seasons of the year, this breeze continues blowing days and nights without intermission.

The natives, too, of Angola, and of Malemba and Cabenda in particular, are a mild, tractable, inoffensive people, not at all warlike, and form a striking contrast to the natives of the Gold Coast, who are tur-

bulent in disposition, averse from innovation, and over whom the forts have not any control beyond the reach of their guns.

Cabenda bay, formed by the projection of Cabenda hook, a cape to the west, is an excellent shelter for shipping, and boats can land there at any time, and very generally also under the point at Malemba.

The river Loanga Luiza has also the appearance of having a navigable entrance, although I believe it has not yet been explored.

These are *local advantages* which the Gold Coast does not possess, for there is not a single place on the Gold Coast where a boat can land with safety, except Dixcove and Succundee, and even at these places it is sometimes very dangerous to make the attempt.

The natives, as well as the slaves, obtained at Loanga, Malemba, Cabenda, and Congo, on the coast of Angola, have one uniform character and appearance; their

skins are very black, few of them are to be found above the middle stature, and the majority are below it; in fact, they may be considered as a diminutive people, when compared with the natives of Africa (except those obtained at Camaroons and Gaboon), north of the equator; their countenances are cheerful, placid, and unreflecting; their manners soft and effeminate; and their muscles small and flaccid, seldom exhibiting the appearance of being enlarged and hardened by labour, or possessing that smooth plumpness which ease and plenty usually produce. To extreme indolence may be principally attributed this falling-off in stature and muscular energy from their black countrymen in the north; for although they live in a soil by no means wanting in fertility, yet are they principally dependent on its spontaneous productions for food, their own labour seldom adding much to the bounty of nature.

Their operations in husbandry are ex-

tremely limited, and the edible vegetables which they most cultivate, is the manioc, or sweet casavi, to which may be added, a small quantity of maize, calavancies, and yams; and even when they have *thus* obtained them, they are often too idle to prepare them in a proper manner, by any culinary process, so as to render them nutritious aliment; in consequence of which, their digestive organs are much weakened, and they suffer from worms, particularly of the tenæ species.

When the season proves unfruitful, and the plantain-tree (the bread-fruit tree of Africa) does not yield its usual abundance of fruit, and on which they chiefly depend for subsistence, the natives of Angola are reduced to extreme want, and feel the effects of a famine which a little industry would have prevented.

On every other part of Africa where slave-ships resort, the captains of these ships

depend on the country supplying a certain portion of food adapted to the habits and constitution of the negroes they may obtain at them; on the windward coast they procure rice; on the Gold Coast maize; at Wydah, Ardrah, and Lagos, maize and calavancies; at Benin, Bonny, Calabar, and Camaroons, yams; but, on the coast of Angola, the natives have no superfluity of provisions to sell, in consequence of which, vessels frequenting it are compelled to bring with them, from Europe, sufficient food to feed the negroes while accumulating on board the ships, and during their passage to the West Indies.

To indolence, then, may be chiefly attributed the diminutive stature of the natives of Angola, because their soil is fertile, and their climate, in many parts, very superior to any north of the equator: and the same cause, no doubt, operates to produce that effeminacy and want of martial spirit ob-

servable in their character. In the West Indies they are valued chiefly for their superior docility, which renders them good domestic slaves and artificers. For field labour, particularly on sugar estates, they are much too lightly framed.

CHAPTER IV.

Seasons—Harmattan: theory concerning it—Trade and productions of Africa—Language—Religion—Climate—Civilization of the Inhabitants: opinion concerning it—Niger: remarks on the various opinions concerning its termination—Geological observations—Rivers—Quadrupeds—Birds—Insects.

THE seasons in Africa may be divided into wet and dry: the wet commencing, north of the equator, in the month of May, and terminating in July, when the dry begins; although heavy showers of rain fall during the months of October and November, which enables the Africans to reap a second harvest of maize: but the rains commence and terminate six weeks earlier near the equator, than at the northern boundary, where the periodical rains cease.

To the southward of the equator, rains begin to fall in October, which continue

till January; but subject to the same variations as north of the equator, the seasons being governed by the earth's place on the ecliptic.

The wet season is always ushered in by tremendous tornadoes, which occur almost daily for a fortnight or three weeks previous to its commencement.

The harmattan wind blows generally once or twice during the months of January and February: it sometimes lasts a fortnight, but more frequently only three or four days. From Cape de Verd to Cape Palmas, the direction from which this wind blows is north-east; but from the latter place to Benin, ENE by compass.

In one of my passages between the Cape de Verd islands and the continent of Africa, in the month of January, a harmattan commenced, which continued four days. The atmosphere, during this period, was so hazy, that we could not discern any object fifty yards from the vessel, in any direction.

But this haze is not like that which accompanies the easterly wind of Europe, but is more intense; for it is occasioned by an impalpable powder floating in the atmosphere, which, in this instance, adhered to those parts of the sails of the vessel that received the greatest impulse from the wind, and gave them the same colour and appearance as if they had been immersed in a tan-pit. The powder, when collected, had an earthy smell, and its colour very much resembled clay.

On the Gold Coast, as also in the bight of Benin, the harmattan, or north-easterly wind, is not accompanied with so dense a haze as the one experienced off the Cape de Verd islands, but is invariably caused by that impalpable powder floating in the atmosphere, in greater or lesser quantities, according to the distance from the desert from which it emanates. When off the Cape de Verds, we were near the western extremity of the great desert of Sahara.

This accounts for the great quantity of powder floating in the atmosphere during the harmattan, which we there experienced, as there can be little doubt that this dust is raised into the air by whirlwinds from the face of the desert. In fact, I consider it as analagous to those winds which blow from the north, and that prevail occasionally on the coast of Guyana, and also at Jamaica, during the same period of the year; but tempered and modified in its passage across the desert, to the western shores of Africa, near the equator. This wind, on first reaching the great desert from the north, is doubtless violent; and, in displacing the heated air from its surface, creates those whirlwinds which raise into the atmosphere the fine impalpable powder which occasions the haziness before noticed. The extreme aridity of the desert deprives it also of every particle of moisture; therefore the greediness observable in it afterwards, in absorbing the juices of plants, and the

moisture from all bodies with which it comes in contact, may be accounted for. The reduction observable in the temperature of the atmosphere, the thermometer generally falling from five to ten degrees of Fahrenheit's scale, is caused, I presume, by the rapid evaporation going on at this period, and the rays of the sun being obstructed in their passage to the earth, by the state of the atmosphere; for the sun at noon-day may be looked at with the naked eye, and is seen but dimly, as through a smoked glass.

CURRENTS.

The general direction of the currents between Cape Palmas and Bonny, is easterly, varying in velocity from twelve miles in twenty-four hours, to thirty miles in the same time. From April to September, the current runs with the greatest rapidity to the eastward; but from the latter end of September to March, it sets occasionally to

the westward. The harmattan wind is always accompanied by a westwardly current; and a tornado gives an impulse to the water in the same direction, which frequently continues during a day or two afterwards.

TRADE AND PRODUCTIONS.

GOLD.

The country lying between Picaninny Bassam, and Dixcove, both inclusive, may be considered as those parts of the Gold Coast where gold of the finest quality is to be obtained, and where it is often met with in lumps of considerable size, or what is called rock gold, which has often small bits of quartz sticking in it.

From Dixcove to Accra, there is also much of this metal to be procured, but of an inferior quality: and, during the slave trade, a considerable proportion of the gold circulated at Cape Coast, Anamaboo, &c.;

was bought, at Great and Little Bassam, Assinee, Appolonia, and Dixcove, by the trading boats belonging to the ships slaving on the Gold Coast, and afterwards bartered for slaves. This gold was then circulated in the Fantee country, adulterated with Fantee gold, a distinction given to the latter for its inferiority.

But little gold is to be seen to the eastward of Accra: in fact, the country does not produce any; and the use of it is almost unknown to the natives of Wydah, Ardrah, Lagos, and Benin.

The mode used by the natives of the Gold Coast, for separating the gold from the earth which is known to contain it, has been already described.

IVORY.

There are few places in Western Africa, from Sierra Leone to the Cape of Good Hope, but where this article, obtained from the elephant, and seamorse, or sea-cow, is

to be purchased, although more abundantly in some places than others. At the different towns on the windward coast, a small quantity only is to be procured. The country extending from Cape Palmas to Cape Three Points, trades in this article to a considerable amount; and from the latter place to Accra, the trade in it is very limited. From Accra to Bonny the trade in it is again extensive, particularly at Popo and Benin. Camaroons is celebrated for its ivory, which is of a very superior quality, being less porous, and more free from flaws than that which is obtained at the former places. A very considerable quantity is procured on the coast of Angola, particularly at Ambrize, Loango, and Majumba.

PALM OIL.

This oil is extracted from the palm-nut, which is about the size, and has the appearance, of a chestnut; but having a large stone in the centre, to which the pulp that

covers it, and from which alone the oil is extracted, bears a small proportion. The manner of extracting it is by throwing the nuts into hot-water; then crushing them in wooden mortars, when they are again thrown into hot-water, and the oil obtained by squeezing them in the hands in this state, until it floats on the surface, from which it is skimmed. The tract of country situated between Lagos and Camaroons is most favourable to the growth of that species of palm which produces it; and a large quantity is annually exported to Liverpool from Old Calabar and Bonny.

DYE-WOODS.

Barwood grows, in great abundance, in the country surrounding Old Calabar, Gaboon, and Majumba. That of the growth of Majumba is held in most estimation, as containing the greatest quantity of colouring matter. Camwood is obtained principally at Sierra Leone and its vicinity.

The indigo plant is indigenous to most parts of Africa. The dye from it is very successfully used by the natives of Ardrah, Hio, and Jaboo. There are many other dyes, particularly a fine bright yellow, which the Africans cannot render permanent, probably from the want of chemical knowledge.

THE COTTON PLANT AND SUGAR-CANE

Are found growing spontaneously in many parts of Africa; the former might be cultivated with great success, particularly upon the sea-coast from Popo to Lagos, and also at Malemba.

GRAIN, &c.

Rice is the principal grain cultivated on the windward coast, maize on the Gold Coast, maize and calavancies on that part extending from the volta to Benin, and from the latter place to Camaroons; yams.

PEPPER.

Besides the pepper common to tropical countries, Africa yields that called Malagetta, or grains of paradise. There is also at Popo and Wydah, a pepper which grows wild, that bears so strong a resemblance to the black pepper of Sumatra, that it might easily be mistaken for it; the only difference is in the size of the berry, that of Sumatra being larger.

HONEY AND WAX.

The woods on the west coast of Africa, particularly those which have open dry countries in their vicinity, have in them vast quantities of bees, exactly resembling the bees kept in hives in Europe. Therefore honey and wax are to be had in these places in abundance.

POT-ASH AND BARILLA.

Might be obtained in any quantity, if it

became with the natives of Africa an object of export: the only difficulty they would experience, would be in refining it, and obtaining casks sufficiently tight to pack it in. They manufacture a quantity for their own consumption; and there are some of the plants of the salsola, which grow on the banks of the rivers, that yield, on calcination, an immense quantity of saline matter in proportion to others; and from which barilla is extracted.

TIMBER.

A species of oak, of excellent quality, and large enough for naval purposes, is to be obtained at Sierra Leone, Bonny, and the Calabars; also on the borders of many of the rivers. Hard-wood, adapted for mill-machinery, and such like purposes, is common on the high lands.

GEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The shore from Cape Palmas to the high

land of Drewin is rocky, although the country to the east and west of Drewin is but little elevated above the sea. The hills of Drewin are of moderate height, rise abruptly from the sea-shore, and appear unconnected with any chain of hills in the interior; for the face of the country from hence to Cape Appolonia, as far as the eye can reach from the mast-head of a vessel, is extremely low. The rocks of Bereby, St. Andrew, and Drewin, are composed of sandstone, having quartz pebbles mixed up in it. The low country is composed of red loam, vegetable mould, and sand.

At Appolonia commences a range of hills, or what may be called an undulating country which continues to Barracoo. Not any of these hills have a greater apparent elevation than four or five hundred feet, and few of them so much, except the Devil's Hill, and that of Ningo: they are all thickly wooded. The rocks along this shore have the same character as those of Drewin, but

the hills are principally composed of clay slate. Along this line of country, much of the gold circulated in the Fantee country is obtained.

From the river Volta, to within twenty or thirty miles of the river Formosa, the country is level; and report states such to be the case three or four hundred miles into the interior; it is so low, that on approaching it from the sea, the trees are first visible. The substratum is generally stiff red clay, covered with vegetable mould and sand, in which a stone the size of a walnut is not to be met with; and those which are employed for grinding corn, are either brought from the Gold Coast, or from the westward, near the Nungo hills. There is a mountain to the north-west of Dahomy, called Boagry, where, I have been informed, stones for grinding corn have also been obtained.

From a point about eight leagues to the westward of the river Formosa, commences that large alluvial tract of land which ex-

tends to the southward of Cape Formosa, and from thence to the eastward to the river Del Rey about two hundred miles, and from the sea board into the interior of the country, sixty or seventy. It is covered with an impenetrable forest, growing out of a muddy soil; much of which is covered with water, some inches deep.

A few leagues to the southward of Del Rey, there are some moderately high hills, called the high land of Camaroons, the altitudes of which have been much magnified by some travellers, who were probably deceived, in consequence of the surrounding country being a few feet only above the level of the sea, which gave them, in their eyes, a degree of consequence they would not have merited had they been placed in an elevated country. These hills have the appearance of being of volcanic origin, and no doubt are so, as are also those of the islands of Fernandipo, St. Thomas, Princes, and Annabona, which all lie nearly in a direct line from each other,

extending from the north-east to the south-west, to the distance of one hundred nautical leagues.

RIVERS.

The first river of any consequence, to the eastward of Cape Palmas, except that of Cavally, is St. Andrew's, which has a very shallow entrance, navigable only by small craft.

Cape Lahoo; the entrance narrow, and the bar so shallow, that the sea constantly breaks upon it. It is at all times dangerous, even for small boats, to attempt a passage into it; and many lives have been lost in consequence of the obstinacy of masters of vessels persisting in making the experiment, notwithstanding the natives had strongly endeavoured to impress them with the danger of doing so.

Grand Bassam is equally dangerous to approach as Cape Lahoo river.

Assinee, the same.

Chamah, or St. John's, possesses much the same facilities of navigation as St. Andrew's. Large canoes, that are made of the ceiba, or silk cotton-tree, are brought down this river, a little way from the interior, to Chamah, and are purchased chiefly by the Portuguese, who trade at Wydah, Ardrah, and Lagos.

Elmina, an insignificant stream.

Sacoom, the same.

The Volta is a river of much greater magnitude than any of the former; but its entrance is choaked by a flat of hard sand, which extends across it, and renders it impassable, even for small craft.

Popo, the embouchure of a lagoon, the eastern extremity of which is lost in a morass, one mile from the sea-shore, and this morass, intersects the road to Ardrah.

Lagos river is only about five or six hundred yards wide at its entrance, although it has been dignified as one of the embouchures of the Niger. In my opinion, it merely

empties into the sea the overflowings of two lakes, those of Cradoo and Ardrah; and at no very remote period probably, the sea-shore was continuous across where its mouth now is, and formed a narrow neck of land, which separated those lakes from the ocean; but which boundary the heavy periodical rains and sea demolished, by which means their waters found a quicker junction with the sea than by the Formosa. In confirmation of which, the bar is formed of hard sand, commences close to its mouth, and extends only three or four hundred yards to seaward; and is so shallow, that it is dangerous for boats drawing more than six or seven feet water to pass it.

Formosa, or Benin river, is two miles wide at its entrance from the sea, and has across it a bank of mud, extending to seaward three-quarters of a mile, on which there are only twelve feet of water at spring tides. Vessels, whose draft of water does

not exceed nine or ten feet, may generally pass it in safety, by taking the proper time of tide for doing so. A few miles from the sea, this river is only half a mile wide, and at New Town, little more than four or five hundred yards: much more importance has been given to it than it deserves. At New Town, it sends off two branches, nearly equal in magnitude to the main trunk, one of which runs to the north-east, and communicates with Gatto; and the other to the eastward, which joins the river Forcados. The direction of the main trunk is about NE. by E. or ENE.; and at fifty miles from the sea, the river, according to the report of the natives, is not navigable for vessels of fifty tons burthen. The depth of water, in any part of this river, does not exceed four fathoms.

Bonny river at its entrance is six or seven miles wide, but it is also the embouchure of the river of New Calabar. A few miles from the sea, these rivers become contracted,

the former not exceeding half a mile in width, and the latter is much less; one comes from north-west, the other from the north-east.

Old Calabar river is one of considerable magnitude, and Duke's Town, at which the vessels trade, and off which they are moored, is fifty miles from the sea; the land about it is moderately elevated, dry, and habitable. A line drawn from north-east to south-west, to cut through Gatto and Duke's Town, would probably separate the wet alluvial tract in the bight of Benin from the dry land.

Del Rey river is wide at the entrance, and so near that of Old Calabar, that vessels have often mistaken and entered it for the latter.

The six rivers situated between Cape Formosa and Bonny have, in appearance, navigable entrances, although they have not been explored. They communicate with each other by creeks, in the interior, according to the reports of the natives. In

fact, the canoes which I saw at Warré, belonging to New Calabar, must have crossed these rivers in their passage.

QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, INSECTS, FISH.

This country, placed so near the equator as this portion of western Africa (extending from Cape Palmas to Congo) is, and possessing a moist atmosphere and a fertile soil, properties so favourable to the production and multiplication of vegetable and animal life, has its surface covered with trees and plants of luxuriant growth, its woods tenanted by innumerable animals, and its waters teeming with every variety of fish common to tropical climates. What a contrast it presents to the cold, ice-bound, sterile shores of Greenland; it exhibits, indeed, such a contrast, that a traveller, who has visited each of these countries, ought scarcely to be accused of impiety, if he entertained an opinion, that the sun was the fountain of life, and its rays the streams by which that life was transmitted to the earth.

That elephants are extremely numerous may be inferred from the vast number of the tusks of these animals purchased annually by Europeans. They are generally shot with balls made of malleable iron, the marks of which are often visible on the tusks; and sometimes the elephants have been so recently killed that when the tusks have been brought to me for sale, I have observed ligaments of the gum perfectly fresh, adhering to them. Their flesh and fat is much esteemed by the blacks, the former as food and the latter for lubricating their skins.

The hippopotamus, or sea cow, is common in the fresh water rivers or lagoons; it browses on the grass and shrubbery growing on their margins, but is so shy and cautious, that it seldom permits any person to come within musket-shot of it.

Leopards, wolves, hyænas, and jackals, are numerous, and frequently commit great depredations in the folds where sheep and goats are placed in the night, for greater

security, although these folds are erected near and often adjoining the houses of their owners. Antelopes of various sizes are plentiful, and a beautiful little animal of this species, the Africans sometimes domesticate.

But few horses are to be seen near the sea-coast, except at Ardrah, to which place they are brought from Hio. They are small sprightly animals, and indigenous to the country. The cattle are generally of a small breed, not unlike those reared in the highlands of Scotland. The entire carcass of one of them seldom exceeds three hundred pounds in weight. These, as well as sheep, which are long-legged and hairy, as also goats; are indigenous to Africa.

The birds of prey are eagles and vultures; the latter are the scavengers of tropical countries, and are so fearless of man, in consequence of the protection they receive from him for their useful qualities, that in some of the African towns they will scarcely move

out of the path where he is walking. Many of the small birds have beautiful plumage; among which may be enumerated many varieties of the king's-fisher, that frequent the creeks and pools of water. In the woods are to be found turtle-doves, and parrots of almost every description that is common to tropical countries. A small bird of the colour and size of a house-sparrow, is the only bird whose notes may be considered melodious.

Of the lizard species, the alligator is the most formidable; but it is a timid animal, and never attacks man, except when he is in the water. The iguana ranks next in size; the flesh of which is by many esteemed a dainty. There is a great variety of the smaller kinds of lizards, or fly-catchers, the colours of many of which are extremely beautiful, and among them may be ranked the chameleon.

Monkeys, both of the short and long-tailed species, are common, particularly the latter;

also a great variety of squirrels. There is a beautiful and perfect little animal of this species to be met with at Loanga, which is not larger than a mouse; the colour of its hair is silver gray, and its bushy tail, when angry, swells to the size of its body.

"Of the reptile species there is almost every variety; snakes, rats, bull-frogs, scorpions, centipedes, spiders, and bats of an enormous size.

Insects of every kind abound. On the Gold Coast there is a species of lyttæ, having the exact colour and resemblance of the Spanish fly, and emitting in its living state a most powerful aromatic smell, but whether it has the vesicating quality of the latter or not, I cannot say, as I never saw the experiment made. Ants are extremely numerous, and that destructive species called the termees, is very common, particularly at Wydah and Ardrah, where they are called bug-a-bug. Flies, which in respiring emit light, are always visible in dark nights, and

there is a species of large horse-fly at Benin, whose proboscis punctures the skin like a lancet.

Fish abounds in most of the rivers, particularly mullet of a large size and superior flavour; but the sea supplies those people living near its shores with their chief varieties. Along the line of coast extending from Sierra Leone to Popo, fishing is a source of livelihood to many of the inhabitants, who carry on the business not only to supply their own wants, but for the purpose of curing them, and sending them into the interior for sale. From Popo to Old Calabar, the natives derive no advantage from the sea, and it is seldom that any of them passes the surf in a canoe, although they are well acquainted with the management of this kind of craft, as the vast number of very large ones to be seen on their lagoons and rivers prove.

Black and hump-backed whales are very numerous during the months of Sep-

tember, October, November, and December, and are often seen near the shore in company with their young, which play round them, and appear to have a peculiar pleasure in flapping their tails against the water as they swim. One of these fish, about fifty feet long, swam so near the vessel (then going three and a half knots) that a person might easily have jumped from the mizen chains upon its back, and it retained the position for nearly ten minutes. The oil extracted from them, is, I believe, not at all inferior to that obtained from the whales of Greenland. Those which yield spermaceti oil, are seldom, or never seen in soundings, but are frequently met with near the African islands, particularly, those of St. Thomas and Princes, and the Cape de Verds, and at the same season of the year. Whalers know them from the former, when at a great distance, by the manner in which the water is forced from the nostrils; the former forces it out at the top of the head like a *jet d'eau*,

while the latter sends it out obliquely from the point of the snout in a spray. I believe it has been remarked by an author, that whales do not sleep; but a circumstance occurred to a ship in which I was, that has left no doubt in my mind that they sleep, and sleep soundly too.

On the 30th of November, at three P. M. when three degrees to the northward of the Cape de Verd islands, and in the meridian of Bonavista, the ship going eight knots with the wind nearly aft, she struck on a whale, and the concussion was so great, as to drive the sails so forcibly aback, as nearly to carry away the topmast; a second shock instantaneously succeeded the first, and the ship's way became almost lost; in fifteen, or twenty seconds, the whale came up under the larboard quarter, bleeding most profusely, and as we thought, killed; for it remained motionless on the surface of the water as long as we could discern it with our glasses, the sea being stained with its

blood to a considerable distance around it. There were four or five other whales in company, which continued to play round their dead companion while visible from the ship. They were of the spermaceti species.

The natives of the Gold Coast keep at a respectful distance from these monsters of the deep, as they have some tradition amongst them, of several fishers and their canoes having been destroyed by them. Some whalers from Nantucket have occasionally appeared in the bight of Benin, but, I believe, were not in general successful.

It is very propable that whales migrate when the sun no longer shines within the arctic circle, and are directed by the same instinct in the pursuit of food, which governs birds and beasts common to the same region of the globe; but whether they proceed so far to the southward as the equator, or not, is questionable. The black whale, as before stated, certainly appears in the bight of Benin in considerable numbers

during the winter solstice, but not at any other season of the year. The spermaceti whale, although a native of the the torrid zone, is often seen to the southward of the tropic of capricorn. They are gregarious, and live in families. I have known a south-sea whaler to fall in with a family consisting of eight or ten in number and to kill the whole of them. The black and the hump-back whales on the contrary, are commonly seen in pairs, male and female, or the latter with its young.

On the coast of Angola, locusts are sometimes seen in immense numbers.

Soon after an earthquake, or *seaquake*, that occurred at Cabenda, and which extended to some distance to the southward and northward of that port, a flight of locusts took place, that continued three days, and three nights, so that the sea was literally covered with their drowned carcases; and the ships' deck, masts, yards, and rigging swarmed with them, to such excess, as to require the constant attention of the

crews, to sweep them overboard. The earthquake, which had preceded their flight only a few hours, drove in upon the shore from the westward several tremendous seas, so as to cause some of the vessels when in the trough of them to strike the ground in five and a half fathoms water. Many of the natives, both here, and at Malemba, were drowned upon the beach, in consequence of it being so very narrow, and the cliffs which bound it so extremely precipitous, that they could not escape the overwhelming waves which came suddenly upon them. To this calamity, was added, the destruction of many canoes, by this sudden inundation of the sea; and the locusts destroyed every blade of grass, and all the vegetable productions of the soil, for many miles round.

An extraordinary flight of small butterflies, or moths with spotted wings, took place at Annamaboo. After a tornado, the wind veered to the northward, and blew fresh

from the land with thick mist, which brought off from the shore so many of these insects, that for one hour the atmosphere was so filled with them, as to represent a snow storm driving past the vessel at a rapid rate, which was lying at anchor about two miles from the shore.

On the same voyage, a swarm of bees came on board, and settled on the quarter-deck; and another swarm took possession of the mast head of one of the ship's boats, on her return from Accra to Annamaboo.

LANGUAGE.

The tower of Babel might have been built on the western shores of Africa, five degrees north of the equator, and its inhabitants dispersed to the north, east, and west, for almost every tribe (and they are innumerable) has a distinct language unintelligible to the others; and as they have not among them any written character, the different languages spoken can only be learned in

those countries where they are used. The enunciation of all that I have heard spoken, is soft and harmonious, and the words composing them abound in vowels, and generally terminate in them. Their compound words seldom exceed four syllables, and frequently entire sentences not more. Their language is, of course, adapted to their habits and wants; and as these are extremely few and simple, and nearly similar in all, the construction of the different languages is the same.

RELIGION.

The prevailing religion on the western coast of Africa is polytheism, and the opinions and feelings of those tribes of Africans, (who believe in good and evil spirits), concerning the invisible God, are, as may be supposed, extremely vague, especially when we know that civilized nations find an insurmountable difficulty in embodying words that can convey to the mind, ab-

stractedly, a representation of the all-powerful and beneficent Creator.

The evil spirit, contrary to the prevailing opinion of Christians, though emanating probably from the same cause, the blacks conceive invariably to be of a white colour, assuming various forms, to effect various malignant purposes; and the immortality of the soul is one of those metaphysical questions, that never haunts their imagination; consequently their hopes and fears, as far as respects a future state of existence, have no influence whatever on their moral conduct.

As superstition is the offspring of ignorance, it is to be expected, that the devotion of the poor untutored Africans must be grossly idolatrous.

The fetiche men, or priests, are generally cunning, designing fellows, who by their mummeries of rags and reptiles, keep alive their hopes and fears as best suits their purposes; by which means they cheat them out

of their property; or, in combination with their kings and chiefs, too frequently rob them of their liberty also. But, whatever are the religious opinions of the neighbouring nations, or however much at variance in form and being the idolatrous object of their worship may be, war seldom arises among them in consequence of difference of opinion on this subject, except to the north and in the interior of Africa, where Mohamedanism is known to prevail.

The Dahomians, whose tutelary deity is the leopard, conquered the Grewhes, or Wydahs, whose object of adoration is a snake; yet, when the leopard commits depredations among the flocks of the latter, they destroy it with impunity, as the former do the snake, if troublesome in their houses or poultry-yards. Perhaps this may be accounted for by the king of Dahomy's power being so absolute and uncontrolled, that it requires no support from the priesthood; or else one might suppose, that he would sup-

port the leopard order of priests against the priests of the snake, which is not the case.

The alligator is the great fetiche at little Popo, and this reptile sometimes makes free to carry off a child, when bathing in the lagoon at that place. At such times, the fetiche men, in order to support their power and credit, are compelled to take the depredator; and the first alligator they entrap, is passed on the child's parents as such, and is sacrificed to the Manes of the deceased.

The Fantees, who have nearly as many tutelar deities as there are days in the year, yet whose religion hangs more loosely on them than most Africans who have any religion at all, eat the shark, the New Calabarians' god; and *samiyd*, its Fantee name, they consider as a dish fit to set before a king. The canine race, which are the protecting deities of the Lagos people, are considered, by the natives of Bonny, as the greatest dainties; and the iguana, the Bonnians' object of adoration, is devoured as

excellent food by the natives of Benin, and probably if the Ibbibbys, or Quaws, could conveniently get at the monarch of that nation, his godship would fare no better than the shark, the dog, or the iguana.

Circumcision is very commonly practised on the natives of western Africa, and where the Mahomedan religion is not known; and I could never obtain any other information from them relative to this practice, but that it was the custom of their forefathers to be so marked.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Africa, Malemba, on the coast of Angola, excepted, has been generally found to be extremely prejudicial to the health of newly-imported Europeans. There are few persons who have visited Africa, but must have observed the baneful effects of its poisonous atmosphere on those not inured to it, and have seen strangers, whom curiosity alone has induced to sleep

a night or two on shore, fall victims to its malignity.

Sometimes, indeed, an European appears, whose constitution is so happily framed as to adapt itself to any climate, however bad, and who actually enjoys good health without adopting any unusual caution to preserve it; while his surrounding companions are daily sinking into the grave, and those who survive are to be seen crawling about, more like cadaverous spectres, than human beings endowed with life. The diseases to which Europeans are liable in this climate, are bilious fevers, of the most malignant kind; in recovering from which, the patients, for many months, labour under extreme debility, or, probably, intermitting fever or dysentery. Calomel appears the only safe remedy, administered frequently as a strong cathartic. Emetics are often attended with the worst consequences, because the disease itself is generally accompanied with that irritability of stomach,

which it is of the utmost importance to allay, rather than to excite.

This extreme unhealthiness arises from a moist and hot atmosphere, to which western Africa is peculiarly liable, and which is impregnated with marsh miasmata, and the noxious gas evolved from vegetable matter in a state of decomposition, the process of which is constantly going on in a country lying so near the equator, but little cultivated, and where the woods are so dense as to be impervious to the rays of the sun.

Notwithstanding this climate is found to be so extremely prejudicial to the health of Europeans, the natives appear to enjoy good health, and to live to a tolerably old age. The wet season, like our winter, produces inflammatory attacks of the lungs and pleura, and also catarrh and mumps. The Africans seem peculiarly sensible of the least change in the temperature of the atmosphere.

When the small-pox makes its appear-

ance, it frequently depopulates entire villages; and, as a disease, it is probably the greatest scourge the Africans have to contend with. It was once so destructive in the Dahomian territory, when the writer was there, that when the common people wished to impress on the minds of their hearers, the truth of their assertions, they wished the small-pox might *strike* them, if what they were relating was not true. But the king of Dahomy put a stop to the practice, by ordering the public criers to proclaim, in all the towns of his dominions, his will, that his people should no longer swear by that dreadful malady, as to that cause alone might be attributed its too frequent recurrence.

The common diseases to which the blacks are subject, are yaws, a bad cutaneous disease; also a contagious pustular eruption, elephantiasis, leprosy, and hernia. But few deformed persons are to be met with, al-

though that *lusus naturæ*, the white negro, born of black parents, is to be seen in almost every populous town. The colour of the skins of these unfortunate persons is a pale ash, evidently arising either from the epidermis or mucous membrane which it covers being diseased, for they appear not to perspire freely; they are also generally purblind, and form an extraordinary contrast to their black parents and companions, in whose opinion they are unfortunately by this malady degraded.

The melancholy effects of this climate on Europeans will probably be best shown, by adding a few facts to the preceding general observations.

On a voyage to Lagos, and Benin, out of a crew consisting of fifty-five persons thirty-five died; among whom, were all the principal officers. This mortality arose in consequence of their being employed, either in the factories on shore, or in boats in the

rivers. Those, who remained on board of the vessel, which was at anchor off the coast, enjoyed good health.

At the island of Princes, where the vessel called for refreshments, three of the crew, consisting of the cooper, his mate, and a seaman, (and who had previously enjoyed excellent health), died; in consequence of their duty requiring them to be much on shore.

On a voyage to the Gold Coast, I was the fourth officer that took charge of a factory at Lagod; a town about twenty-three miles to the eastward of Annamaboo, and near the British fort at Tantumquerry. At this place my three predecessors had died in little more than three months, notwithstanding this town is built on the top of a hill having an elevation of three, or four hundred feet, the base of which is washed by the sea.

In two voyages to Bonny, I remarked, that the coxswains who had charge of the boats that took the captains on shore every

evening (where they remained two or three hours), frequently lost their lives, by being exposed to the effluvia, arising from the slimy bed of the creek, which leads to the town, unless inured to the climate. The remainder of the boats' crews, being natives, did not of course suffer.

Vessels, which anchor near the south point of this creek, (the cemetery of Europeans, and where many thousands have been interred), and which many imprudently do for the paltry convenience of having a quicker communication with the shore, are in general very sickly, while those lying in the middle of the stream remain healthy.

On a voyage to Benin, when the vessel having a crew of twenty men proceeded into that river, and anchored off New Town, ten of them died in four weeks, although none of them except myself ever went on shore. On this voyage, my residence was occasionally at Lagos, Badagry, Ardrah,

Wydah, as well as at Benin; and I remarked, that the major part of those officers and men, who had occasion to be on shore, at any of these places, and were not inured to the climate, generally fell victims to it in three or four weeks. I observed the same to occur at Lagoo on the Gold Coast.

At Malemba none died, and those who had been sick recovered, except my surgeon, who had imprudently, and contrary to my express orders, slept one night on shore at Accra on the Gold Coast, and lost his life, by fever, in fourteen days afterwards.

In the four following voyages to the Gold Coast, the vessels commanded by me had crews of fifty men each, none of whom died, in consequence of being strictly prohibited from sleeping on shore, and never allowing them to be exposed to the rains, two instances only excepted. One occurred, in consequence of my being compelled, in self-defence, to establish a factory at Lagoo, where three officers died in three months.

On another occasion, the governor of

Dixcove fort prevailed on my second officer to allow the armourer of the ship to remain on shore for one night, in order to complete a job he had in hand for him, although he had been sent by me in the boat to bring him on board. The consequence to the poor man was, that he died in three weeks.

CIVILIZATION.

The progress of civilization, in any country inhabited by savages, depends much on its local situation, in its capability of carrying on a commercial intercourse with enlightened nations, who have it in their power to introduce amongst its inhabitants the arts of civilized life: and climate will also be found powerfully to accelerate or retard this advancement.

Experience has proved that savage nations, inhabiting maritime countries situated in temperate climates, have emerged from a state of barbarism more rapidly than those living within the tropics.

In a climate like that of Britain, where

the feverish heats of the torrid zone are never felt, nor the rigours of a Siberian winter experienced, man may be supposed to be most happily placed for the full development of his physical and moral energies; and it would hardly be credited at this day, were it not handed down to us by the most authentic written testimony, that, when the Romans first invaded Gaul and Britain, they found the natives of these countries clothed in skins, and their bodies tattooed, and daubed with various coloured earths. They found, also, that horrid custom to prevail, which seems identified with man in a savage state, that of immolating human beings upon the altar of their gods, by the Druids, who were the sacrificing priests. The advantages which climate, locality, and conquest, have bestowed on these nations, it is unnecessary to remark on here, as they are happily very apparent.

Savages inhabiting a tropical climate, require but little raiment or fire. The soil

yields, almost spontaneously, food adequate to their support. Bodily exertion is therefore seldom used by them, except in the pursuit of pleasure. Ease and sensual enjoyments are their chief delights: and the extreme heat, consequent on the locality of their country, powerfully contributes to render a state of inactivity pleasurable and even necessary.

The climate of Africa is, therefore, unfavourable to any rapid progress being made in the civilization of its inhabitants.

That the Africans are endowed by nature with faculties as capable of receiving instruction as the savages inhabiting any other country we are acquainted with, is at this day not to be questioned; although this climate, as before remarked, is unfavourable to either bodily or mental exertion; and the nature of their civil and religious institutions is such, as to place them in a state of extreme degradation, for Africa is a country chiefly inhabited by tyrants and slaves.

The natives of the western shores of Africa have certainly local advantages very superior to those inhabiting the eastern shores, because they have a free and easy communication with the most enlightened nations of Europe, which the others have not. And however justly the trade in slaves, carried on by Europeans with the former, has been reprobated by enlightened men of all countries, yet it is probable, that, should the Africans ever become a civilized people, the foundation of their becoming so will have been laid by the slave-trade; because, when the slave-trade is abolished by all those nations who have hitherto carried it on, on the western shores of Africa, it is probable the chiefs inhabiting those parts will direct their attention to obtaining from the soil those products for which they can obtain in exchange such articles as they have been accustomed to receive in barter for slaves. But wherever the trade in slaves exists, the cultivation of the soil, and the

obtaining the natural and valuable products of the country, for sale to the Europeans, will be neglected. Man is the offspring of pleasure, although in Africa he is too often the child of misfortune; and, whether there is a demand for him as an article of merchandize, or otherwise, he will continue to be propagated and reared: and so long as he continues to be an object of commerce, he will be preferred to any other, because he can be obtained without labour. Superior to bales or casks of merchandize, he possesses locomotive powers. Carriages, or beasts of burthen, are unnecessary for his conveyance to the port of embarkation; for he is himself both the article of merchandise and the carrier. He can wind his way through the intricacies of a forest, paddle a canoe across a lake or river; and the only care which devolves on his master is the prevention of his escape, and the providing the means of subsistence on the road.

It is to be presumed, then, that the first approaches of the Africans towards a state of civilization, and an amelioration of their condition, will be first observable in those inhabiting the western coast, and after the slave-trade has *totally ceased* to exist. Wars of aggression will become less frequent, as the principal excitement to them will have ceased to operate; and the chiefs will then find it indispensable to direct their attention to the cultivation of the soil, in order to obtain from it, for barter, its natural products.

It must, however, be expected, that their exertion in this way will be extremely limited for a considerable period, because Europeans cannot be incorporated with them, so as to set them an example of industry, and instruct them in the skill and knowledge necessary, in consequence of the extreme unhealthiness of the climate.

THE NIGER.

A problem remains yet to be solved, respecting the Niger. Where does it terminate? Is it, according to Major Rennel's opinion, lost in the swamps of Wangarra? Or, are its waters discharged into the sea, according to Riechard's theory, by the many rivers placed between those of Formosa and Del Rey, both inclusive? Or, is the Congo still to be considered as its embouchure?

I believe it was Captain Tuckey's opinion, that the Congo is not the embouchure of the Niger; although he thought the former river had its source north of the equator, because he found its waters begin to rise in September.

With regard to Riechard's opinion, arguments may be adduced both in its support, and against it, although the latter must certainly preponderate. The country

through which those rivers pass, that he considers as the embouchures of the Niger, extending from the Formosa to Del Rey, and from the sea-shore into the interior, to the distance of fifty miles, has one uniform character,—that of a vast alluvial morass, heavily timbered. The country most resembling it, which has come under my own personal observation, is that part of Guyana, lying between Cyane and the river Essequibo; and the only difference is that the former has moderately deep water near the sea-cost, while that of the latter is extremely shallow, to a considerable distance from the shore.

In the former rivers, as in those of Guyana, I have never observed any extraordinary rise of the water; and the tides ebb and flow in them with the same regularity, except during, or immediately after it has rained heavily on the sea-board; in which case, the ebbs during neap-tides run

two or three hours longer than the floods. If, then, the water of the Niger is discharged into the sea, by the rivers on the bight of Benin, it is certain that it does not produce the effect either of accelerating the velocity of their streams, or of augmenting their bulk, but which may probably be accounted for by its spreading over a vast tract of country, from which there are so many outlets to the sea; and that communicate with each other in the interior, by many wide and deep creeks.

In a recent publication, the rivers Lagos and Bonny have been dignified with the appellation of embouchures of the Niger, and the author of it draws his conclusions from the following premises.

"That it is well known, as soon as Lagos and Bonny were opened to the slave-trade, that on the Gold Coast gradually declined: and therefore, as soon as the easy communication by the Niger with those

ports, was known to the slave-traders in the interior of the country through which the river bends its course, they gave a decided preference to the cheap and easy conveyance of their merchandise by water to Lagos and Bonny, to the more tedious and expensive journey by land to the Gold Coast."

Now, the number of slaves brought to the Gold Coast for sale, was augmented or decreased, according to the demand that existed for them, and the tranquillity of those countries from which they were brought, or through which they had to pass, in their journey from the interior to the sea-coast. The real cause of the diminution of the slave-trade on the Gold Coast, arose from the excessive competition that was carried on there, by different European nations; which enhanced the price of negroes so considerably, as to leave but little profit to the merchant, who was com-

pelled to seek a better and cheaper market, which he found on the coast of Angola.

If the trade in slaves had been turned from the Gold Coast to Bonny, from the cause which has been assigned, many of the slaves sold at the latter place, would have been natives of the same nation or nations, as those that were brought to the former, whereas three-fourths of all the negroes sold at Bonny were Heebos, the remaining fourth was composed of those of the Ibbibby or Quaw nation, and the Brass country or Allakoo; all of which countries, of which these negroes are natives, are in the immediate vicinity of Bonny.

Now the cargoes of the vessels trading on the Gold Coast, were composed of natives of Fantee, Asshantee, of Chamba or Dunco, also of Crepee, obtained at Accra, those of Wassa at Cape Coast and Elmina, and Akims at Winnebah.

Lagos rose only into importance as a place

of trade, when the European war and the revolution in France prevented the slave-ships belonging to France carrying on their usual trade at Ardrah; and the latter place derived its consequence from the king of Dahomy monopolizing the trade in slaves in his own dominions, which proving extremely injurious to the interests of both the white and black traders, drove them to the expedient of seeking another market. Ardrah became the refuge of the Wydah traders, and the king of Hio, who is much more powerful than the monarch of Dahomy, placed it under his immediate protection, which created a degree of confidence in those traders, that rendered its trade very extensive. When the French, from the cause before assigned, were compelled to relinquish the trade in slaves at Ardrah, the English slave-traders increased in number at Lagos, and the principal supply of slaves at it, was derived from Ardrah by way of

the lake that communicates with Lagos river, and not by the Niger, or any other river that communicates with the Niger.

The negroes obtained from the north-eastward, by Cradoo lake, are principally of the Jaboo nation, and those obtained at Ardrah were natives belonging to Hio, Housa, Dahomy, Mahee, and Ardrah; not a negro of which nations did I ever see offered for sale on the Gold Coast, that had travelled from the interior, neither did I see any such sold at Bonny. So that the negroes sold on the Gold Coast, belong to nations totally distinct from those sold at Ardrah and Lagos; as those sold at the latter places are from those brought to market at Bonny; which would certainly not be the case, if, as asserted, Lagos and Bonny rivers were embouchures of the Niger, and had a communication with the same nations in the interior of Africa. Besides, I have never seen, except at Ardrah, any traces

of the Mohammedan religion in this part of Africa, which proves the free communication that exists between it and remote nations in the north, but this communication is carried on, on foot and on horseback*.

Many of the slaves of the Housa nation, with whom I have conversed, both at Ardrah and Lagos, and also on board of vessels slaving there, have invariably stated, that they travelled on foot from their own country through that of Hio; and that there is an immense lake in Housa, which they compared to the sea; that persons were frequently days and nights on it without seeing any land; and that the sun is observed to rise and set on its water. They described

* I have little doubt but the Niger might be visited by way of Ardrah and Hio, with less personal risk to the traveller, from the natives, than by any other route we are at present acquainted with.

Horses are to be obtained at Ardrah, and also natives who understand both the Hio and French languages.

having seen white people in its vicinity with long hair like Europeans (meaning Moors of course); but I could never learn from them, that Housa had any communication whatever by any river with the sea-coast, by which they could be transported to it.

Slaves of the Housa nation are brought to Ardrah by the Hio traders, and then sold, either to European or black traders, belonging to Lagos and Badagry. Their attenuated bodies on their first arrival, proves their journey to have been long, tedious, and exhausting.

APPENDIX.

VESSELS bound from England to Africa, will find the best route to be (wind permitting) to make the Canary islands, afterwards, shaping a course to carry them about mid-channel, between the Cape de Verd islands and the continent of Africa; by which means, the circuitous route to the westward of the Cape de Verds (which is the beaten track) is avoided, and the most tedious portion of the passage to Africa (the calm latitudes), considerably abridged, by passing quickly out of the north-east trade wind into the south-west wind, which is the prevailing one on this part of the coast of Africa. Ships bound to the Gold Coast, and not intending to call on the windward coast, will find an advantage in passing the meridian of Cape Palmas in 3° 50′, or 4° north latitude, and making the high

land of Drewin, to the eastward of that cape, because the direction of the land from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas is nearly south-east by east, by compass, which requires a ship, allowing for variation, to steer SE. by S. to clear the land, and as the prevailing winds blow from south to south-west, with occasionally a strong current setting to the northward, much difficulty is often experienced, and valuable time consumed, in getting round Cape Palmas, by vessels falling in with the land to the northward and westward of that cape.

In running for the Canary islands, the indraft to the straits of Gibraltar, or easterly current, should always be carefully guarded against, otherwise a vessel may be wrecked on the coast of Barbary. I had often remarked this current, but on my last voyage, it exceeded in velocity, in a duplicate ratio, what I had before experienced. We passed in sight of Cape Finisterre, and in eight days arrived in the latitude of the Canary islands, when the longitude by dead reckoning was 16° 30′ west, but by lunar observation, 13° 15′ west, the current having set the vessel three degrees of longitude, or 144 nautical miles, to the eastward, in eight days. It may be proper to remark here, that the log was hove every hour, and all due precaution used to ascertain, with the greatest possible precision, the longitude by dead reckoning.

The atmosphere near the Canary islands is ge-

nerally hazy, but much more so as the coast of Barbary is approached, which renders precaution doubly necessary. In this instance, we ran the ship between the island of Fuertaventura and the main, without seeing either, and hauled up to the westward when to the southward of the south end of the former, to avoid Cape Bajadore. If celestial observations had not been used to ascertain the longitude, the probability is, that the ship would have been in great danger of being wrecked on the coast of Barbary; because, having had so late a departure, an error of such magnitude in the dead reckoning as three degrees would not have been apprehended, and not seeing any land when in the latitude of the islands, the conclusion might reasonably have been, that the ship was to the westward of Palma, and not the eastward of Fuertaventura.

This current varies in velocity at different periods of the year. Sometimes it is scarcely perceptible, at other times running at the rate of thirty or forty miles in twenty-four hours, but always increasing in velocity in approximating the Barbary shore, until Cape Bajadore is passed to the southward.

Norris's chart of the coast of Africa, extending from Cape Palmas to Cape Lopez, and published by Laurie and Whittle in 1792, is sufficiently correct for the purposes of traders navigating that part of the coast, as the latitudes of the principal capes,

or head lands, are correctly laid down, as well also as the places of trade generally. There is an error in the longitude, of thirty miles of a degree too far to the eastward, the meridian of Greenwich being made to pass over Tantumquerry point, instead of that of Barracoo point. I found Annamaboo, by a mean of ten lunar observations, to be fifty-four miles west of Greenwich, and Cape Coast in 1° 3′ west of that meridian. The distance measured on Norris's chart, between the high land of Drewin and Cape Coast, I found by lunar observations to be very correct.

The ground from Bereby to Drewin is foul; therefore, in anchoring over these places, some precaution is necessary.

Picaninny Bassam lies at the bottom of a deep bay, called the bottomless pit, where there is not any anchorage until within half a cable's length of the shore; and many masters of vessels have found themselves very uncomfortable, when they have imprudently taken their vessels too far into this bay, and the wind has proved light and far southerly, from the difficulty they have experienced in getting them out of it, and their ground-tackle being rendered unavailable in case of emergency, in consequence of the extreme depth of the water. This bay had better therefore be avoided by vessels of burthen.

The line of coast from Appolonia to Cape St.

Paul's is well defined, the shore bold, and anchorage good; the reef off Tacarara is the only obstacle, and it lies much nearer the shore than is laid down in the chart. From Cape St. Paul's to Little Popo, the land is low; at the latter place there are three or four small hummocks, but from thence to Benin river it is extremely flat, no inequality presenting itself along the whole line of coast, which renders the intermediate places of trade very difficult to find. In running along the coast to the eastward and from Popo, in eight fathoms water, Grewhe town may be seen from the deck of a vessel, by using a good telescope, at about three miles from the beach, as there is scarcely any wood to intercept the view, and which will point out the proper anchorage of Wydah. Porto Nova road is twelve leagues to leeward of Wydah, and when I was there, the mark for anchorage was an isolated clump of large trees, in number probably twenty or thirty, bearing north, and growing very near the beach. The road to Ardrah winds close past them.

The road of Badagry is nearly equi-distant from Porto Nova and Lagos, and has no particularly marked object to be known by. The town is three miles from the beach and situated on the north bank of the lake, or river, that descends from Ardrah into Lagos river, and is at Badagry about two hundred yards broad. A shrubbery intercepts the

view of the town until the river is very nearly approached.

Between Badagry and Lagos river, numerous villages are scattered along the beach, reposing in pretty groves of cocoa-nut trees. The mouth of Lagos river is so contracted, that it might easily be passed unobserved, and often probably would be, were it not for the breakers off its entrance.

The course from Lagos to Benin is south-east by compass, and, in approaching the latter place from the north-west, with an intention to run into that river, there are, on the eastern shore, extending from its mouth to the southward, two clumps of trees, very near each other, and which are higher than the line of shrubbery in which they are growing (they are called the cock-up bubbies, from their imperfect resemblance to mammœ); these bearing ESE. run directly for them, until you open the river, then run in, keeping the western shore on board until past Jo creek; keep afterwards the centre of the river up to New Town, where vessels generally anchor in three and a half fathoms water. The bar is a flat of mud of considerable extent, having only twelve feet water in it at spring-tides. After leaving Benin road, and rounding Cape Formosa, the seventh river to the eastward of that Cape is the embouchure of Bonny and New Calabar rivers. The distance, estimated from Foche Point, its western extremity, to Rough corner, its eastern

extremity, is seven miles. A ship may run with great safety from Cape Formosa to Bonny river in seven fathoms, and if of a moderate size, may pass the bar of that river at low water, there being on it at such times, three fathoms. The marks for entering it are two high trees at Peter-side*, a handspike's length open, with Rough corner. The sea breaks at half-ebb on the sand called the Baleur Head, lying on the starboard hand going in, and which is very steep too; as it does also on the western breakers on the larboard hand, so that the channel, which is broad, is itself also very distinctly marked. The passage out of the river is both shallow and intricate, and requires considerable caution in taking a ship through it; for, however frequently a man may have been at Bonny, it will be prudent for him to examine the channel well, and buoy it, if necessary, before proceeding through it to sea.

Old Calabar and Camaroons rivers have both of them broad and deep entrances, the latter particularly; and very little experience is requisite to find the way both in and out of these rivers. The high lands of Romby and Backasy Gap are good marks for finding the entrance of the former, and preventing the masters of vessels from mistaking the river Del Rey for it.

* Peter-side is the name of a town on the right bank of the river Bonny, about five or six miles from its mouth.

On Laurie and Whittle's chart there are good surveys of the entrance of both the above rivers, as well as those of Bonny, Benin, and Lagos; although the course from the west head of Benin river to New Town is marked, in Mr. Dalzel's survey, too much to the eastward; and New Town is about three miles further from the bar than is there laid down. The embouchure of Lagos river is little more than half the width of that given by Captain Horsley, although, in other respects, his survey of that river, and part of Cradoo Lake, is correct.

During the period of the year when land-breezes alternate with those of the sea, the best mode of beating a ship to windward is to get under weigh as soon as the wind blows steadily from the land, hugging the shore on board as near as may be prudent; for by that means every advantage is derived from it that can be expected. Soon after day-light, this wind veers to the west, and lays the ship's head off shore. By 11 a. m., the sea-breeze will have acquired its strength and true direction, at which time, also, the vessel will have made a good offing. Tack, and stand in shore, anchoring when in eight fathoms water, where it will be proper to wait for the land-wind.

By adopting this method, a vessel is placed in the best possible situation for taking early advantage of the breeze from the shore: whereas, if she were

kept under weigh during the night, the probability is, that she would lose all the ground she had gained the preceding day, independently of being placed where the land-breeze might not reach her.

During the rains, when the sea-breeze blows both in the day and night, and at a few leagues from the shore, from very near the south point of the compass, stand off shore for twenty-four hours, when the wind will mostly be found to blow at SSW. or S by W. and often at the south. With the larboard tack on board, the vessel will lie up west clean full, and the variation being nearly two points westerly, she will not only make good her course, but southing also.

As the current at this season of the year sets strongly to the eastward, it will be prudent to allow thirty-six miles in twenty-four hours, for its mean velocity: otherwise, in bearing up, and making the land, the ship will be found to leeward of her port of destination. This is an error many fall into. Perhaps it would be better to allow even forty-eight miles; because it is easy to run a few leagues to leeward, should the vessel prove to windward of the place to which she is bound.

These directions are given for vessels navigating between Cape Palmas and Lagos, although they will apply equally to other parts of Africa, the localities of which are similar.

DESCRIPTION OF A VESSEL SUITABLE FOR THE PALM-OIL TRADE, AND OUTFIT.

Perhaps the size of the vessel best adapted for this description of African voyage, is a burthensome one, registering 250 or 300 tons, coppered to the bends, and navigated with a crew of eight men to every 100 tons. Stores and provisions should be laid in for twelve months; and good casks, suitable in size to the stowage of the vessel, and adequate to contain all the oil she is capable of stowing. These casks must be put up in shakes, when leaving England, for the convenience of stowage; and their quality ought to be particularly good.

Two spare bower anchors, and one spare stream anchor, will be necessary; a chain cable, also, of 100 fathoms, being provided with a proper swivel in the middle, for mooring with, so that the hemp cable may be saved, and the tedious operation of clearing hawse be avoided. A conductor for lightning, and iron buoys, are proper: the one may save the ship from destruction, and the other the loss of anchors. Wooden buoys are liable to be wormed, and sink.

Craft, of sixty or seventy tons' burthen, that sail well, are best adapted for the gold and ivory trade, as they are capable of carrying a European cargo of sufficient magnitude, to barter for a large amount

in gold and ivory, and are navigated at a moderate expense.

Vessels trading for palm-oil should sail from Europe before Christmas; and if they are intended to run down the coast, it will be proper for them to sail two or three months earlier. They should arrive in Bonny or Calabar by the first of March, the height of the palm-oil season being in the months of April, May, June, and July.

It being the indispensable duty of every master of a vessel, to promote the health and comfort of the officers and men committed to his charge, as well on the ground of humanity, as for the ultimate success of the voyage in which he is engaged, the following brief remarks, founded on experience, may be useful.

In selecting a crew for a voyage to Africa, a preference should be invariably given to those officers and men who have been inured to that climate, provided their characters, in other respects, answer.

Neither officers nor seamen should be employed in any duty on shore, or in the navigation of boats in creeks or rivers, for the purposes of trade, or for obtaining wood or water, where natives can be procured capable of performing those duties. A parsimonious conduct in this respect is highly culpable and has occasioned the sacrifice of many valuable lives.

The charge of a boat, having a valuable cargo on board, must necessarily devolve on an officer: one, therefore, seasoned to the climate should be selected for the purpose.

No officer or seaman should be allowed to sleep *one night* on shore, if it can possibly be avoided; neither should they be exposed to rain, or the meridian rays of the sun.

It is the practice in Calabar, Bonny, and Benin, for vessels to have roofs over them, constructed with mats, which are rendered impervious to rain, thereby preventing the crew from exposure to its baneful influence. Ships which do not proceed to those rivers, but are anchored off the coast, should be provided with superior main and quarter-deck awnings.

In rainy, foggy, or damp weather, fires, placed in various parts of a vessel, will be found beneficial; and fire-pans should be provided for that purpose.

The crew should be divided into as many watches as is consistent with the safety of the vessel, when, in harbour, or at anchor off the coast; because a more vigilant look-out will be kept by men whose hours of rest are not too much abridged: and they will also be better able to perform their daily avocations.

Various kinds of vegetables and fruit are generally to be obtained cheap in Africa, which should be purchased and served to the crew, but not

sparingly; and fresh provisions as often as they can be obtained.

Sailors being too often improvident, a number of flannel shirts and trowsers should be sent out in the ship, in order that none may be unprovided with those important articles of dress, particularly during the rainy season.

A liberal allowance of provisions, and spirits, or wine, should be provided for the crew. Cleanliness and regularity are important to their health and comfort.

GOODS SUITABLE TO BARTER FOR GOLD AND IVORY ON THE GOLD COAST, EXTENDING FROM CAPE PALMAS TO THE RIVER VOLTA.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. s. d.	*oz. ac.*
Half says blue	Knipe and Partridge, best makers	0 18 0	0 10
Ells, green Ditto, yellow	Ditto, particularly adapted for Cape Appolonia trade	1 0 0	0 8
Bejutapauts, red Ditto, blue	India, Dutch pattern best	0 18 0	0 10
Chelloes	Ditto	0 16 0	0 10
Neganipauts	Ditto, Dutch pattern best	0 17 0	0 10
Niccanees	Ditto, French pattern best	0 15 0	0 8
Tapsails.	Ditto best	0 12 0	0 8
Tom Coffee romal	Manchester best	0 10 0	0 6
Tape ditto	India small and large patterns, assorted	0 10 0	0 6
Abang ditto	Ditto	0 10 0	0 6

Goods, &c. (continued).

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. *s.* *d.*	*oz.* *ac.*
Bonny blue ditto	Ditto fine small pattern and blue borders	0 10 0	0 6
Hair ditto	Ditto	0 8 0	0 6
Asshantee ditto	Ditto	0 7 0	0 6
Chintz	Five colours, Develgree's best	0 15 0	0 8
Ditto	Two ditto	0 12 0	0 8
Danes, red, 8 handkerchiefs	Glasgow best mixed patterns	0 12 0	0 8
Ditto, superfine	India	0 10 0	0 8
Linen, Silesias	Six yards	0 5 6	0 2
Cottons	London, 2 blues, 4 yards	0 16 0	0 4
Stuffs, Guinea	India, 2 blues best	0 6 0	0 2
Taffety	Ditto small striped best	1 15 0	1 0
Rum, ankers, 6 gall.		0 12 0	0 6
Iron, bars		0 5 0	0 2
Lead, bars	Four	0 2 0	0 1
Gunpowder, kegs	Three to a barrel	1 1 0	1 0
Ditto	Six to ditto	0 10 6	0 8
Tobacco, leaf, hhds.	Large leafy and strong best	15 0 0	0 8
Guns	Dane and Buccaneer best	0 12 0	0 6
Pipes, boxes	Dutch best	0 12 0	0 6
Pans, Brass	Assorted	0 7 0	0 1
Pewter	1, 2, and 3 lb. basins: 3 lb.	0 0 0	0 1
Tallow, kegs		0 3 0	0 2

The value of goods in gold, on the Gold Coast, is estimated, *pro forma*, to be half the trade price, or half that price at which they were valued when bartered for slaves; as they are now valued when bartered for ivory, and as estimated in the annexed columns opposite to their denominations.

The prices in gold are, nevertheless, governed

by the demand, and the qualities and patterns of the articles on sale. Thus, a red bejutapaut (Dutch pattern), valued at ten ackies in trade, may sell for eight or nine ackies of gold; and a Tom Coffee, a broad tape, or a fine Bonny blue romal, of the value of six ackies in trade, may, and often does, sell for five ackies of gold. The other enumerated articles are, of course, governed in price by the same operating causes. At one period I have sold a hogshead of tobacco, which cost 30*l.* in England, for 260*l.* sterling in gold; when, at another period, I could not obtain the cost price.

Half says, green and yellow ells, being woollen, are most in demand a short time before the vernal equinox commences. Inferior goods are generally bartered for ivory, such as common romals, chelloes, cottons, ankers of rum, iron and lead bars, gunpowder, guns, pipes, and beads.

It is imprudent for any master of a vessel to take gold from the natives, in barter, without having a black gold-taker to examine it: for I have heard of those, who, depending on their own judgement, have brought to England what they conceived to be boxes of that precious metal, and which, on inspection, proved to be almost wholly the filings taken from brass pans. A boat should therefore be sent to Cape Coast for gold-takers.

A vessel should be provided with two or three sets of scales, weights, and blow-pans, in order that the boats may be provided with them.

At all places of trade, ardent spirits have their strength reduced, by adding at the rate of one gallon of water to four gallons of spirits.

An ounce of gold is valued at four pounds sterling, and an acky of gold at five shillings.

GOODS SUITABLE TO BARTER FOR IVORY, PALM-OIL, &c. AT POPO, WYDAH, ARDRAH, BADAGRY, AND LAGOS.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.			Trade value in Africa.	
		l.	*s.*	*d.*	*oz.*	*ac.*
Chelloes	India, small pattern best	0	16	0	0	10
Sastracundies	Ditto, good colour	0	12	0	0	10
Allijars	Ditto, ditto	0	12	0	0	10
Carrydarries	Ditto, ditto	0	12	0	0	10
Danes, red	Ditto, ditto, 8 handkerchiefs	0	10	0	0	8
Photaes	Ditto, ditto	0	16	0	0	8
Romals	Assorted, ditto	0	8	6	0	8
Silesias	English, or German, 6 yards, always in great demand	0	5	0	0	2
Chintz	English, 12 yards	0	18	0	0	8
Cuttanees	India, bright coloured and figured, best	1	15	0	1	0
Taffities	Ditto, red, or red-striped, best	2	0	0	1	0
Lungees	Ditto	1	5	0	1	0
Bandannoes	Ditto, blue	1	10	0	1	0
English Silks	Per piece, figured & plain	3	3	0	2	0
Gunpowder	Four kegs to the barrel, each	0	16	0	1	0
Guns	Soldiers' muskets	0	13	0	0	8
Iron Bars	120 to the ton	0	0	0	0	2
Brandy, kegs	Six gallons each	0	14	0	1	0

Goods, &c. (continued).

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. *s.* *d.*	*oz.* *ac.*
Tobacco, rolls	Brazil, if fresh, always in great demand	1 10 0	1 0
Pipes, boxes		0 4 6	0 6
Gin, kegs, or cases		0 14 0	1 0
Coral, real	Always in great demand, price arbitrary		
Ditto, mock			
Cowries	16,000 to the oz. always in demand	0 0 0	1 0
Handkerchiefs, pullicats	India, bright coloured and red	1 5 0	1 0
Calawapores	Ditto	0 11 0	0 8

Vessels trading at these places require one or two canoes, and a set of canoe-men, both of which are to be obtained at Cape Coast. The canoes may be purchased cheaper at Chamah, and fitted at Cape Coast. Those suitable for the purpose, cost, when completed, eight or ten ounces of gold; and the canoe-men, in number twenty-one, receive monthly wages and subsistence during the time they are employed. The surf on this line of coast being very heavy, and the natives never passing it, either for the purpose of fishing, or trade, and boats being *at all times* unavailable for the purpose of communicating with the shore, renders a canoe, and canoe-men of the above description indispensable. Huts are erected on the beach (except at Popo, where the town itself stands), where officers from the vessels reside, to receive the goods and forward them to their places of destination. The natives of

Grewhe are particularly adroit at purloining goods from the parcels sent by them, however well secured; and their neighbours of Ardrah, Badagry, and Lagos, are not much their inferiors in light-fingered dexterity. The Fantee canoe-men are thieves to a man.

The natives of Little Popo have always possessed a good trade in ivory, and much might be obtained at a cheap rate, as also palm-oil, both at Ardrah and Lagos; but particularly at the latter place, now that the trade in slaves, north of the equator, is abolished by all nations.

Lagos is particularly well situated, as having a communication by water with Ardrah and Badagry; as also with those populous towns, Cradoo and Quassi (Kosi of Bowditch), on the north-east margin of Cradoo lake; which lake contracts at its eastern extremity, like that of Ardrah, and communicates with Gatto creek.

Vessels bound here, ought to obtain on the Gold Coast what fire-wood may be required for the consumption of the voyage, as it is of a superior quality, more easily procured, and cheaper than at any of these places.

The duties paid by vessels trading for ivory are moderate. Slave-ships paid heavy sums, particularly at Wydah and Lagos. At these places, as on the Gold Coast, accounts are kept in ounces and ackies, sixteen ackies making one ounce.

Business is transacted in factories, situated in the principal towns.

MERCHANDISE SUITABLE TO BARTER FOR IVORY AND PALM-OIL, AT BENIN AND WARRE.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. s. d.	*pawns.*
Silks, English	Pieces both of plain and figured	0 0 0	0
Cuttanees	India, plain and figured	1 15 0	10
Taffity	Assorted	1 15 0	10
Damask	A few pieces	9 0 0	0
Lungees	India	1 10 0	8
Handkerchiefs, pullicats	Ditto, good red colour	1 10 0	8
Coral	Real, in great demand, per string	0 0 0	0
Romals	Assorted, Bonny blues, red border, best	0 10 0	4
Chelloes	India, small pattern	0 16 0	6
Gunpowder	70 kegs to the barrel	0 0 0	1½
Guns	Common	0 10 0	4
Iron		0 5 0	2
Beads	Assorted, black point, bird's eye, china, &c.	0 2 6	1
Brandy, jars	2 gallons each	0 4 6	2
Ditto, ankers	6 gallons each	0 12 0	6
Salt	Not in great demand, per cwt.	0 0 0	1
Tobacco, rolls	Brazil in great demand, at all times	1 10 0	12
Dances, red	India, good colour, 8 handkerchiefs	0 10 0	4
Allijars	Ditto, ditto	0 10 0	4
Pipes		0 6 6	2

Common Hats, Earthenware, Looking-glasses, and Hardware, assorted.

Sixty or seventy tons of Salt in each cargo.

At Benin and Warré much palm-oil and ivory may be obtained, and there can be no doubt at a much cheaper rate than either at Bonny, Calabar, or Camaroons, because the competition between traders at the latter places, during several seasons, has been so considerable as to raise the prices of palm-oil from 10*l.* to 14*l.* sterling per ton; and some of the traders have been so foolish as to pay more for the ivory which they purchased at the Camaroons, than it would actually sell for in England.

A vessel of 250 tons' burthen is probably the best size for this trade, carrying out upon her deck two boats as large as she can conveniently stow, with decks, masts, sails, &c. fitted, and ready to be put in their births, as soon as the boats are hoisted out. A factory established at Lagos, with the ship lying off Benin bar, would perhaps be the best arrangement for giving facility to the voyage, as the factory at Lagos would sweep the markets (supposing the country to be tranquil, and competition not to exist) of Ardrah, Badagry, and the towns on the margin of Cradoo lake. The small boat should keep up the communication between the ship and the factory, at which latter place the canoe should be stationed, and by its medium the goods might be landed on the beach a little to leeward of the river, the portage from thence to the town being moderate. By adopting this mode of getting goods to the factory, contrary to the usual practice of

English vessels, the health of the boat's crew will be preserved, and the unavoidable risk of the boat being upset upon the bar prevented; both of which are of the utmost importance in a voyage of this description.

In the larger boat, the trade may be carried on off New Town, in Benin river. A few Fantee sailors, hired on the Gold Coast, and who can return home in the canoe when the ship's loading is completed, will be found of infinite service in navigating the large boat, and be the means of saving the lives of many of the ship's crew.

The customs levied on vessels for Benin and Warré, are moderate. The medium of exchange is salt; but accounts are kept in pawns, the value of one of which is equal to a bar in Bonny, averaging from two to three shillings sterling each.

In trading for oil and ivory, it will be unnecessary to establish a factory at Gatto, as was the practice of slave ships, unless a competitor has fixed one in that town.

MERCHANDISE SUITABLE TO BARTER FOR PALM-OIL AND IVORY, AT BONNY.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. s. d.	*bars.*
Bafts, blue . .	India, best	0 18 0	4½
Chelloes . .	Ditto, small pattern, deep blue . . .	0 16 0	4½

MERCHANDISE, &c. (continued.)

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. s. d.	*bars.*
Bejutapauts	Ditto, Dutch ditto, deep red	0 18 0	4½
Neganipauts	Ditto	0 17 0	4½
Niccanees	Ditto	0 15 0	3½
Photaes	Manchester	0 10 0	3½
Cushtaes	Ditto	0 10 0	3½
Romals, Bonny, blue	India, small pattern, red border, best	0 10 0	3
Ditto, Tape	Ditto	0 10 0	3
Ditto, common	Manchester	0 8 0	3
Bandannoes	India, yellow, best	1 10 0	4½
Pullicats	Ditto	1 5 0	4½
Chintz	English, large pattern, blues best	0 12 0	4½
Iron bars	160 bars to the ton	0 2 0	1
Guns	Soldier's muskets, best	0 15 0	4
Ditto, French & Spanish		0 10 0	4
Gunpowder	70 kegs to the barrel	3 3 0	1½
Neptunes		1 5 0	3
Manilloes	40 to a bar	0 5 0	1
Copper Rods	In boxes	0 0 0	4½
Ox Horns	Rough 6 for	0 0 0	1
Beads, assorted	China, black points, bird's eye, barley-corn, and guinea-guinea, &c.	0 0 0	1
Flints		0 0 0	1
Hardware	Assorted, in razors, scissors, knives, &c.		
Brandy	English, in puncheons		
Hats	Common, 24*s.* per dozen		
Worsted Caps			

Fifty tons of Salt in each cargo.

The trade in palm oil has been increasing at

Bonny for some time past. Five vessels, of the burthen of 300 tons each, have obtained full cargoes there during the two last seasons, the cost price of which was from 12*l.* to 15*l.* sterling per ton. It ought to be remarked, that, when the slave-trade here was in its greatest activity, masters of vessels sometimes found much difficulty in obtaining two or three puncheons of palm-oil for the use of the slaves on the middle passage, and have been compelled to send for it to Old Calabar.

The natives of Bonny are expert traders, and obtain from masters of vessels very extensive credits, who grant them this indulgence, in order to bind them to their interests, and the *great secret* of the trade, both here and at Old Calabar, where credit is even more extensively given, is to discriminate properly in whom to place confidence; for many of them are so unprincipled, that, after having obtained in this way a large amount of goods from one captain, they take their native produce for sale to another. Others, however, are very punctual in their dealings; and when they see a captain too liberal in lending or giving, advise him to be more circumspect, or, to speak in one of their metaphors, to keep his hand shut.

The Customs, or duties payable by a ship, amount to about 150*l.* sterling.

Palm-oil is purchased by the puncheon.

MERCHANDISE SUITABLE FOR OLD CALABAR.

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. *s.* *d.*	*coppers*
Photaes	India, in great estimation	0 18 0	30
Allijars	Ditto, & of good colour	0 10 0	24
Sastracundies	Ditto, ditto	0 12 0	24
Carrydarries	Ditto, ditto	0 12 0	24
Romals, Tom Coffee	Ditto, always in demand, best	0 10 0	24
Asshantee	Ditto, ditto		
Bonny blue	Ditto, ditto, red-borders, best		
Broad Tape	Ditto, ditto		
Quaducker	Ditto, ditto		
Danes, red	Glasgow, ditto	0 10 0	24
Bafts, blue	India	0 18 0	24
Lungees	Ditto	1 5 0	24
Pullicats	Ditto	1 5 0	24
Chintz	English, large pattern	0 18 0	24
Gunpowder	Per barrel	3 3 0	300
Guns	Soldier's muskets, with brass pans, in great demand	0 15 0	40
Ditto	Common	0 11 0	30
Beads	China, black point, bird's-eye, guinea-guinea, &c. China are in the greatest estimation . . per bunch	0 2 6	
Iron Bars	160 to the ton	0 2 0	
Lead ditto			
Copper Rods	A box		
Flints			
Hardware	Assorted, in scissors, knives, razors, locks, needles, &c. &c.		

MERCHANDISE, &c. (continued).

Names of the various Goods.	Remarks.	Cost price in England.	Trade value in Africa.
		l. s. d.	*coppers*
Earthenware.	Assorted, in mugs, jugs, basons, plates, &c. Mugs with covers always sell well.		
Stone Jars, 2 galls.			
Brandy	English, in puncheons.		
Rum	Leeward Island, ditto.		

Salt an important article of trade, and is sold in tubs of 36lbs., for 4 coppers per tub.

A considerable trade in palm-oil was carried on at Old Calabar, during the existence of the slave-trade, and has augmented very much in the last four or five years. In the last season, not less than two thousand tons have been imported into Liverpool from thence.

The oil is purchased by the tub, or crue, of ten gallons, for eighteen coppers, the price varying according to the demand; and eighteen coppers may be deemed a high price, the oil costing at that rate nearly 14*l.* sterling per ton.

Salt being very cheap in Liverpool, and always in demand at Calabar, the vessels going there generally take, of that article, the amount of their register tonnage, beside a well assorted cargo of the other enumerated articles.

A house on shore, for the storage of oil as it is purchased, is therefore requisite, until a quantity of salt is disposed of, so that the oil can be received

on board. The casks which receive it are carried out in shakes, and set up in the country, much precaution being used in trimming and coating them. In consequence, vessels take three or four coopers; the mortality among that class of artificers being generally great, by reason of much of their duty being performed on shore.

The duties payable amount to about 250*l.* sterling, a moiety of which goes to Duke Ephraim, the principal chief: the residue is divided amongst the minor chiefs. The currency of the country is copper rods.

Barwood is obtained at a very cheap rate; but its value in England is so much reduced, that few vessels take more than is sufficient for broken stowage and dunnage.

Many of the traders expect and receive credit to a great extent: a master of a vessel, therefore, in selecting those in whom to place confidence, ought to be possessed of sound judgement and acute discrimination.

MERCHANDISE SUITABLE TO BARTER FOR A SMALL CARGO OF IVORY AND BARWOOD, AT AMBRIZE, CABENDA, MALEMBA, LOANGO, AND MAJUMBA.

Names of the various Goods.		Remarks.	Cost price in England.
			£.
Bafts, blue . . .	50	India, best . . a 18*s.*	45
Neganipauts . . .	50	Ditto . . . a 16*s.*	40
Chelloes	50	Ditto . . . a 16*s.*	40
Romals, Danes . .	50	Ditto . . . a 12*s.*	30

MERCHANDISE, &c. (continued).

Names of the various Goods.		Remarks.	Cost price in England.
			£.
Gunpowder . . .	10	Barrels . . . a 60*s.*	30
Earthenware . . .	8	Crates of common 100*s.*	40
Rum, puncheons .	5	Leeward Island a 220*s.*	55
Iron Bars	300	. . . . . 2 tons	32
Neptunes, tub . .	1	. . . . .	35
Brass Rods, boxes .	1	. . . . .	4
Blue Cloth, pieces .	3	. . . a 12*s.* per yard	35
Baize, pieces . .	3	. . . a 3*s.* . . .	10
Stone Jars	200	1 gall. each 1*s.* . . .	10
Salt	40	Tons . a 20*s.* per ton	40
Guns	100	Birding and Tower, a 12*s.* each . . .	60
Hardware	1	Cask assorted, in knives, scissors, razors, &c.	20
Pipes, boxes . . .	5	. . . . .	2
Umbrellas . . .	10	Dozen, colours various	30
			£558

This abstract is adequate to purchase four or five tons of ivory, and from fifty to one hundred tons of barwood, unless there is much competition. An extensive trade in ivory is carried on at the above places, and on the line of coast extending from Majumba to Gaboon. At the latter places, barwood is also obtained of good quality.

Fast-sailing vessels, of the burthen of 80 tons, and from that to 120 tons, are the sizes most suitable to be employed in the ivory trade. Business is generally transacted on shore.

Ivory is often purchased on this coast at so

moderate a price, as to leave a good profit for the adventurer, although much time is consumed in obtaining it. When a vessel has finished her purchase of ivory, her cargo is completed with barwood, at Majumba, or Gaboon.

The currency of the country is mats made from the bamboo. Cloth is valued by the piece and fathom; and other goods bear a relative value.

The duties payable at the various places of trade are inconsiderable. A few presents, of small value, given to the principal men, is all that is expected from vessels trading for ivory.

The natives of Cape Lopez, River Danger, and Corisco, are treacherous, and should be watched.

AN ABSTRACT OF A CARGO SUITABLE TO PURCHASE 100 TONS OF PALM-OIL AT CALABAR, AT 14*l.* PER TON.

	£.	*Coppers.*
100 Tons of Salt	100	6,200
50 Barrels of Gunpowder	150	15,000
200 Soldiers' Muskets	185	8,000
200 Photaes	180	6,000
300 Romals, assorted	162	7,200
130 Allijars	50	2,400
100 Sastracundies	60	2,400
20 Pieces Lungee Handkerchiefs	25	800
20 Pieces Pullicat	25	800
100 Pieces Chintz, English	90	2,400
	£1,037	51,200

AN ABSTRACT, &c. (continued).

	£.	Coppers.
Brought over -	1,037	51,200
6 Puncheons of Brandy -	66	4,480
Beads, Iron Bars, Copper Rods, Hardware, Earthenware, Hats, Caps, &c. - - - -	247	10,620
	£1,400	66,300

CAMAROONS FOR ONE TON OF IVORY, VALUED AT 200*l.*

	£.
15 Tons of Salt - - - - - -	15
17 Barrels of Gunpowder - - - - -	51
50 Tower Guns - - - - - -	50
10 Blue Bafts - - - - - - -	10
20 Photaes, Manchester - - - - -	7
20 Romals, Ditto - - - - - -	7
10 India Romals - - - - - -	5
10 Chelloes - - - - - - -	9
1 Puncheon of Brandy - - - - -	10
20 Brass Pans - - - - - -	15
Beads, Iron, Lead Chests, Hardware and Earthenware - - - - - -	31
	£200

Ten tons of Salt added to the above assortment is adequate to purchase, at the same place, 20 tons of Palm-Oil.

Guns, Gunpowder, Neptunes, and mock Coral, always in great demand.

GOODS ADAPTED TO PURCHASE 100 TONS OF PALM-OIL, AT BONNY, AT 10*l.* PER TON.

		£.	Bars.
150	Barrels of Gunpowder	450	15,750
300	Tower proof, and French Muskets	180	1,200
300	Tape, or Bonny blue Romals - Beads, Neptunes, Brandy, Manilloes, Copper Rods, Ox-Horns, &c.	190	2,500
		£1,000	20,350

AT CAPE LAHOO, AND ADJACENT PLACES, TO PURCHASE ONE TON OF IVORY.

		£.	oz.	ac.
120	Half-ounce kegs of Gunpowder	60	60	0
50	Dane, or Buccaneer Guns	35	18	12
40	Ankers of Brandy	22	11	0
50	Common Romals	20	25	0
15	Chelloes, common 15 Bejutapauts, common	22	18	12
20	Half Cottons	6	5	0
10	Boxes of Pipes	3	3	12
	Iron Bars, Lead Bars, Dutch Knives, Earthenware, and Hardware	27	15	0
		£200	159	12

REMARKS ON GOODS SUITABLE TO BARTER IN AFRICA.

INDIA COTTON GOODS.

BLUE BAFTS

Are always in demand at Bonny, Camaroons, and Coast of Angola; some are also required at Calabar. It is a piece of cloth, that cannot be imitated so well in England, but that the natives of Africa can discover the counterfeit, and invariably give a decided preference to those of India. The price has varied, from 16*s.* to 40*s.*

BEJUTAPAUTS, BLUE AND RED,

Are always in demand on the Gold Coast, especially those of the Dutch pattern, and which are also suitable for the Calabar trade. Price from 18*s.* to 25*s.* each.

CHELLOE.

This is a good piece of cloth at Bonny, Calabar, Gaboon, Camaroons, and Coast of Angola; those which are fine, and put up in paper, are most suitable for the Gold Coast. Price 16*s.* to 25*s.* each.

NICCANEE.

Those of the French pattern are most esteemed on the Gold Coast. Price from 14*s.* to 22*s.*

PHOTAES.

This piece of cloth is in estimation at Old Calabar, it is also esteemed at Popo, and Wydah. Price 15*s.* to 25*s.* each.

TAPSAIL.

A useful piece of cloth, and might be successfully imitated at Manchester. Price 12*s.* to 18*s.* each.

NEGANIPAUTS.

If, of a good pattern, it is in general demand. Price 16*s.* to 21*s.* each.

ABBAPHOTAE, OR TOM COFFEE ROMAL.

A favourite piece of goods on the Gold Coast, and also at Calabar. Price from 12*s.* to 20*s.* each.

BONNY BLUE ROMAL.

This piece of handkerchiefs is always in demand on the Gold Coast, Bonny, Calabar, and Camaroons. On the Gold Coast those having blue borders, and that are very fine, are in most esti-

mation, and those with red borders are preferred at Bonny, &c. Price 9*s.* to 14*s.*

TAPE ROMAL,

In demand on the Gold Coast, and also at Bonny, Calabar, and Camaroons. Those having blue borders are preferred on the Gold Coast, red borders are esteemed at the latter places. Price 10*s.* to 14*s.*

ABANG ROMAL.

Suitable for the Gold Coast, Bonny, and Calabar. Price 9*s.* to 12*s.*

QUADUCKER ROMAL.

Suitable for Calabar. Price 9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*

ASSHANTEE ROMAL.

Particularly adapted for Calabar. Price 8*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*

HAIR ROMALS.

A common piece of handkerchiefs, but cheap and useful. Price from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*

RED DANE ROMALS,

In eight handkerchiefs, and ten handkerchief

pieces. In request at all places of trade. Those of Glasgow are preferred on the Gold Coast. Price from 8*s.* to 20*s.*

ALLIJARS, SASTRACUNDIES, AND CALAWAPORES.

Those of a bright red colour are always preferred, and circulate at the different places of trade, from Popo to Camaroons. Price 11*s.* to 15*s.*

WHITE BAFTS, OR GURRAHS.

Suitable for Bonny and Calabar. Price, from 17*s.* to 21*s.*

HOO HOOS.

Adapted for Wydah, Ardrah, Lagos, and Benin. Price 18*s.* to 24*s.*

CHOLLETS.

Adapted for Wydah and Ardrah. Price 9*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*

CHINTZ,

Patna, and five coloured, adapted for the Gold Coast. Price 15*s.* to 21*s.*

CHINTZ.

Devalgree, in great demand on the Gold Coast. Price, from 19*s.* to 25*s.*

GUINEA STUFF

Checked, blue without any border is esteemed on the Gold Coast. Price, from 5*s*. to 7*s*. 6*d*.

INDIA SILKS.

TAFFITY.

Small striped is the favourite pattern on the Gold Coast, but plain red at Wydah, Ardrah, Lagos, and Benin. Price, from 40*s*. to 50*s*.

CUTTENEE,

Plain and figured, cotton and silk mixed. This piece of cloth is held in much estimation at Wydah, Lagos, and Benin. Price, from 40*s*. to 50*s*.

SARRY,

Highly valued on the Gold Coast, if the pattern is a small striped one. Price, 25*s*. to 30*s*.

BANDANNA,

Yellow, in great esteem at Bonny. Price, from 30*s*. to 35*s*. per piece.

LUNGEE HANDKERCHIEFS,

In demand at Calabar and Camaroons. Price, 25*s*. to 35*s*. per piece.

PULLICAT HANDKERCHIEFS.

Adapted for Wydah, Benin, Calabar, and Camaroons. Price, from 25*s.* to 30*s.*

ENGLISH MANUFACTURED COTTON GOODS.

CHINTZ.

A heavy piece of goods; the colours are blue and white, and red and white; patterns various, and generally large. These are adapted for Bonny, Calabar, Camaroons, Gaboon, and Angola. Price, from 16*s.* to 21*s.*

PHOTEES, CUSHTAES, AND ROMALS.

These are blue and white striped, coarse in quality, and adapted for Bonny, Camaroons, and Gaboon. Price, from 7*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*

BLUE BAFTS.

Often substituted for those of India, although very inferior in quality. Price, from 17*s.* to 25*s.*

ALLIJAR COTTONS.

In general estimation at the different places of trade. Price, from 7*s.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*

SILESIAS,

Sinen, six yards. These are always in demand, but particularly at Popo, Wydah, and Lagos. Price 5*s*.

WOOLLEN GOODS.

HALF SAYS

Are much esteemed on the Gold Coast. Those made by Knipe and Partridge ONLY, should be sent there. Price 22*s*.

GREEN ELLS AND YELLOW ELLS.

Adapted for the Gold Coast, although some of the latter colour are used at Benin. Price 21*s*.

MOOR BLUE CLOTH

Adapted for the coast generally. Price, from 6*s*. to 12*s*. per yard.

BAIZE, BLUE,

Sells at Angola. Price 3*s*. 6*d*. per yard.

WORSTED CAPS,

Red, adapted for Bonny and Calabar, Camaroons, and Gaboon.

HATS,

Common, in general request, 24*s.* per dozen.

SPIRITS.

British Brandy was preferred at Bonny and Calabar, but the natives of those places, now prefer French Brandy, or Rum.

RUM

Is held in most estimation on the Gold Coast, especially that manufactured in America; Leeward Island rum is suitable for the Coast of Angola.

FRENCH BRANDY

Is esteemed at Wydah, Ardrah, Lagos, and Benin; also, Hollands Gin, in cases of six bottles, and twelve bottles. Spirit used in trade is generally reduced to three-fourths of the proof strength. At Bonny to two-thirds, where pepper is made to supply the deficiency of strength. The captains careful of the health of the natives, soak a quantity of dry bird-pepper in brandy, which is strained off and put into the brandy, at the time it is mixed with water, this gives it pungency and *prevents detection.*

GUNPOWDER.

To be saleable, should be of good quality, al-

though much of a very inferior description has been sent from England (and Liverpool in particular) to Africa, which has caused the natives to give that brought by the Dutch and Danish traders a decided preference.

GUNS.

Those called Danes are preferred at Cape La Hoo, and Accra; at the former place buccaneer guns are also esteemed. The Tower proof musket is adapted for the Gold Coast trade generally, and also for Wydah, Lagos, and Benin; at the latter place birding guns are sometimes in request. French muskets, also English military ones, are esteemed at Bonny; the greater proportion of the muskets taken to that place during the existence of the slave trade have been of a bad quality. The extreme humidity of the atmosphere, and the saline particles floating in it, causes articles manufactured of iron, or steel, however highly polished, to rust immediately on exposure to it; the natives, therefore, invariably give a preference to those guns the furniture, or mountings, of which are brass; those having pans made of that composition are in great request at Calabar. The main springs of all guns taken to Africa should be strong, so that when they are in the act of being cocked, they should click very loud, or talk, as the blacks call it; and the louder they talk, the better opinion they have of their quality.

Tower proof, also birding, guns are suitable for Angola. The prices vary from 7*s.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*

TOBACCO,

North American, of a dark, leafy, strong quality, is preferred to that which is of a fine quality and flavour. It is suitable, for the Windward and Gold Coasts.

SOUTH AMERICAN, OR BRAZIL, TOBACCO

Is that which is exported from Bahia to Africa in rolls weighing eighty pounds each. This tobacco is preferred in Asshantee, Dahomy, Hio, Housa, Jaboo, Lagos, and Benin, to every other kind; the markets of which have hitherto been constantly and well supplied with it by the Portuguese slave-traders. But now that the trade in slaves is totally abolished north of the equator, two or three small cargoes of tobacco, from Bahia might probably be bartered away for ivory and gold to advantage, in the line of coast from D'Elmina to Benin. At Bonny, Calabar, and Angola, tobacco is cultivated.

SALT

Was formerly in great demand at Benin, but the demand has subsequently declined; nevertheless, a vessel going there for oil and ivory should take fifty

or one hundred tons. At Calabar and Camaroons salt has always been in extensive demand, and vessels going to Angola generally take fifty tons each. As the trade in palm-oil increases in Bonny, salt, in all probability, will become more in demand, vessels trading there, take at present about fifty tons each.

IRON

Is in general demand. At Bonny avaricious men hoard it, as it does not spoil in keeping. The usual sized bars average one hundred and eighty bars to the ton weight.

LEAD BARS

Average about three pounds weight each, and are in general demand. They are converted by the Africans into slugs and balls.

BRASS PANS, NEPTUNES, AND KETTLES,

Are in general demand, but are considered losing articles of trade, but highly necessary to complete an assorted cargo for Africa.

COWRIES

Are shells brought to Europe from the Maldive islands in the East Indies, and are always in great demand at Wydah, Ardrah, and Lagos, at which places they are not only the medium of exchange,

but from whence they are also sent to Dahomy, Hio, Housa, Jaboo, and into the very heart of North Africa, where it is known they are the circulating currency. If any of the rivers in the Gulf of Guinea, or on the Coast of Angola, communicated with the Niger, it might be expected those shells, in such extensive circulation and demand in North Africa, would be in demand at Bonny, Calabar, Camaroons, or the Congo: but such not being the fact, is a circumstance which makes against the probability of any of those rivers in the Gulf of Guinea extending much to the northward of their embouchures. Cowries sell in England, from 40*l.* to 80*l.* per ton.

BEADS

are much esteemed in Benin, Bonny, Calabar, and Camaroons, also on the coast of Angola: they vary in price, and some of them are considered an expensive article of merchandise; but they cannot be dispensed with.

HARDWARE AND EARTHENWARE,

Such as has been enumerated in the tables, pay well, if properly laid in at the places where they are manufactured.

The goods enumerated in the different columns are valued nearly at what their minimum prices have been for some years past, when those im-

ported from India have been cheap, with the exception of Photaes and Romals of fine quality, and of favourite patterns.

Besides the cargoes sent in vessels to Africa, the captains generally take with them a few presents for those chiefs with whom they mean to trade, and whose favour and interest it is important for them to obtain. These presents chiefly consist of gold-laced hats, silver-headed canes, pieces of rich silk, and embroidered coats and waistcoats.

In trading with the Africans, punctuality is of great importance, paying them to the last farthing whatever is their due: and in all transactions with them, it is not only just, but politic, to deal honourably with them, never taking an unfair advantage of the ignorance of any individual, by which means their confidence is acquired. A trader once overreached by an European, becomes an object of ridicule to his townsmen, and will not easily be induced to traffic again with the same individual, particularly if he can obtain from another such goods as he may require in barter for the commodities he has for sale. It is humane, as well as necessary, to indulge them in any trifling demand they may have occasion to make, provided they are not too expecting and importunate.

THE END.

G. Woodfall, Printer,
Angel Court, Skinner Street, London.

00083699

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 04 April, 2016